DARE-DEVIL
MARVEL COMICS
'97
DEAD-POOL
ANNUAL
KELLY
CHANG
HOLDREDGE

DIRECT EDITION

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WHOMSOEVER FIGHTS MONSTERS...

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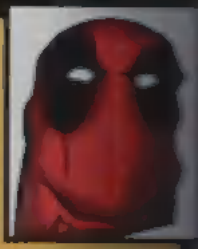
DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL

A vigilante. A mercenary. A murderer. Drawn together by blood, fate and attraction. Each with wildly different agendas. Each striving to realize their own dark goals. Truth. Justice. Reality. All will be realized this day, but in a way no one expects.

DAREDEVIL

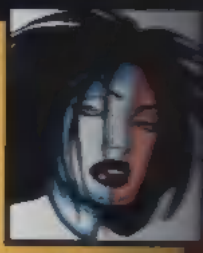
Blinded as a teenager by a radioactive isotope, Matt Murdock's remaining senses were consequently evolved to superhuman sharpness. Trained in the ways of ninja fighting, he is (in his civilian identity) a partner in the law firm of Sharpe, Nelson & Murdock. Daredevil must ever walk the hazy line that divides due process and vigilante justice.

DEADPOOL



A mercenary with an artificial healing factor, Deadpool has run through the gamut of negative experiences in his tortured life. Bordering on insanity, Deadpool has ever been forced to laugh at the chaos of life, lest it overwhelm him. Deadpool has recently begun a quest to turn away from the path of darkness.

TYPHOID MARY

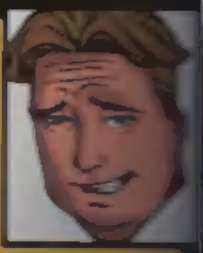


One-time assassin of the Kingpin, Typhoid is as deadly as she is seductive. Certifiably insane, she is tortured by multiple personality disorder, and has an extreme hatred towards the male half of the population. Recently, she tricked Deadpool into breaking her out of the Gutman Institute for Mental Excellence.

WEASEL

Arms supplier and right-hand man, Weasel is one of the few people Deadpool even remotely trusts. Even so, his is an existence of both verbal and physical harassment. Even so, there aren't many other people who can give it to Deadpool straight, even if he doesn't want to hear the truth.

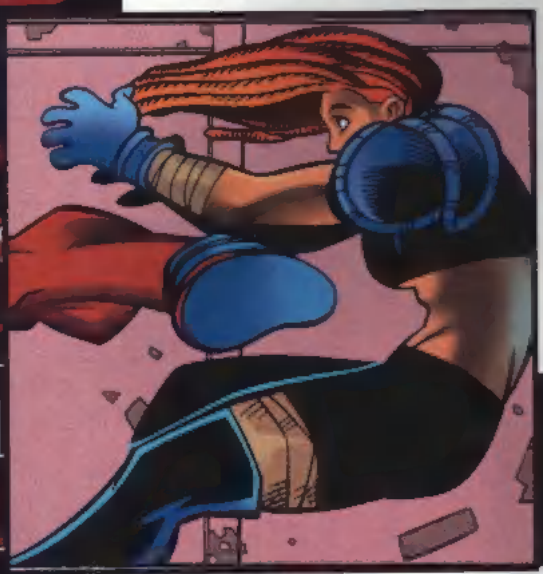
FRANKLIN "FOGGY" NELSON



Long time friend of Matt Murdock, Foggy is also privy to Murdock's alter-ego. Together, Foggy and Matt work side by side as partners in the law firm of Sharpe, Nelson & Murdock, but when it comes to the super hero aspect, Foggy is somewhat on the naive side.

PREVIOUSLY IN DEADPOOL & DAREDEVIL

While working for the Kingpin, Typhoid was sent to kill Daredevil. Instead, the two formed a dark connection, taking love to its most perverse form. In the process, Typhoid learned Daredevil's identity. It wasn't until she lowered her guard that Daredevil was able to defeat her and place her in a mental hospital.



After Deadpool broke Typhoid out, he brought her to the Hellhouse, the dilapidated merc hangout where all manner of thugs pick up mercenary assignments. While engaged in a scuffle of his own, Deadpool inadvertently knocked Typhoid Mary through a window.

As she fell, Typhoid realized a dark secret about her past involving Daredevil, one that precedes their known shared history.

In that moment, Typhoid determined to set out on a quest to erase her past... by whatever means necessary. Reluctantly, Deadpool allowed her to go to New York alone, planning to catch up with her. Which brings us to the present...

Design by COMICRAFT (JG/JM)

SAN FRANCISCO. THE DEADHUT.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS? DHB! YOU KNOW WHAT THE DHB'S ARE, WADE?
DEADLY HORMONAL BACKUPS! YOU GOT TESTOSTERONE SQUIRTING OUT OF YOUR EARS, AN' IT'S SCREWING UP YOUR BRAIN!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY JAMMIES WITH THE FEET ON THEM? THE ONE WITH THOSE COMFY THIN SPOTS WORN IN THE BUTT?
MANHATTAN. A RESTAURANT.
AN' THEN BOBBY TWO-TONES TAKES ONE RIGHT THROUGH HIS... WHATTA YOU CALL THAT THING?
HIS AUDITORY CANAL?
YEAH! BRAINS ALL OVER HIS NEW BMW!
THAT'S NOTHING! SHE LEFT MY BROTHER WITH A COLOMBIAN NECKTIE THAT HUNG DOWN TO THE KNEECAPS SHE LOPPED OFF!
LONG ISLAND. THE GUTMAN INSTITUTE.
Um... THIS IS WHERE THE BULK OF THE DAMAGE TOOK PLACE. IT USED TO BE OUR DAYROOM...
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT GETS A LITTLE MORE LIGHT NOW THAN IT USED TO...
...Heh JUST A LITTLE HUMOR —
HYSTERICAL. YOU MUST BE A RIOT DURING GROUP THERAPY.
TELL ME MORE.
CAUTI

YOU ARE NOT LISTENING!
I HEARD YA FINE, ALI BAD GUY MEETS WORSE GIRL, RUNS OFF ON SOME FOOL MISSION...
...LEADS TO MULTIPLE LACERATIONS AND SEVERE CRAMPING IN THE NETHER REGIONS. BAD BAD BAD.
NOW MIX YOURSELF UP AN ENSURE AND GO WATCH MATLOCK. I'M TRYIN' TO PACK HERE...
IF YOU KNOW THAT SHE'S TROUBLE, WHY ARE YOU GOING?
FIRST, I GOTTA PROTECT MY INVESTMENT. THE CRAZY BROAD STILL OWES ME A BUNDLE, AND I AIM TO COLLECT.
SECOND, THE CHOICE BETWEEN A DANGEROUS LIAISON IN THE BIG APPLE...
...OR SITTING AROUND THIS DUMP WATCHING YOU GROW LIVER SPOTS IS A NO-BRAINER, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU GOTTA ADMIT THAT THERE IS SORT OF... AN ART TO THE WAY SHE CAN DISEMBOWEL A GUY BEFORE HE HITS THE GROUND.
'S A THING OF BEAUTY, REALLY.
I BET THIS OLD BURG GETS A LOT MORE INTERESTING NOW THAT SHE'S BACK IN TOWN. GLAD I'M NOT ON HER LIST.
HEH. YEAH... 'COURSE WITH A WHACKED OUT ARTISTE LIKE THAT RUNNING 'ROUND, WHO KNOWS...
...ANY ONE OF US COULD BE HER NEXT MASTERPIECE, RIGHT? HAH-HA!
HER SESSIONS WERE SO PROMISING... Dr. KATZ SEEMED TO HAVE WRAPPED UP AT LEAST TWO OF HER PERSONALITIES...
...BUT I THINK HE LEFT THE WRONG ONE INTACT.
YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT, DOC.
GASP!
THERE COULD BE NOTHING MORE WRONG THAN THIS "PERSONALITY"...
THE DEVIL! HE'S HERE!

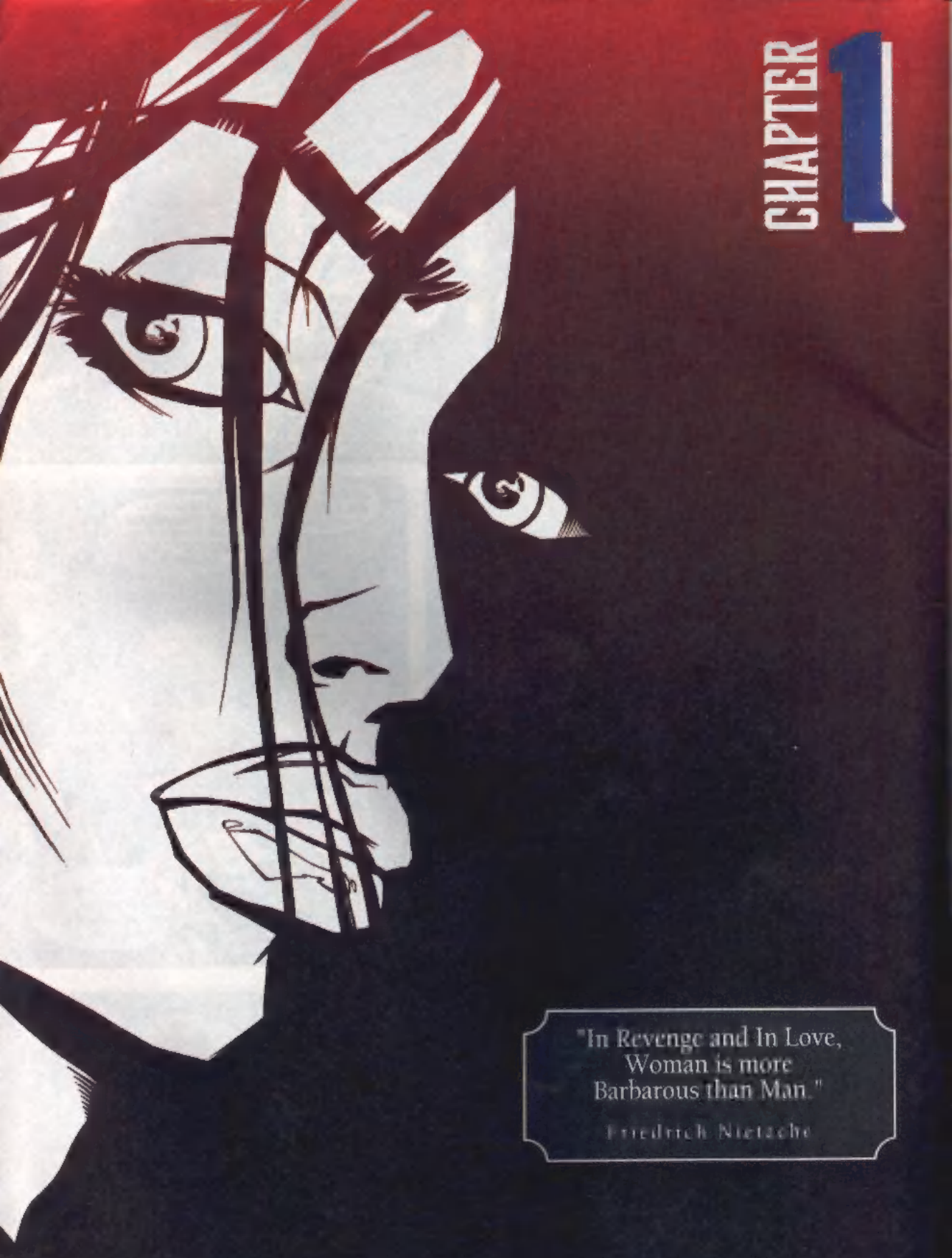
THE MORE YOU MAKE JOKES, THE MORE I KNOW YOU'RE COVERING SOMETHING UP.
SMEK
YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE JEALOUS, AL. IT'S JUST BUSINESS.
YEAH, AND I'M LOLA FALANA.

HAVE A CRAPPY TRIP, IDIOT.
AND SCORE ME A GOOD PRESENT, OR DON'T COME BACK!
WILL DO! OH, BY THE WAY...
...I HID ALL YOUR MEDICATION, JUST SO YOU'D HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WHILE I'M GONE. TOODLES!

G-GET ME THE FRASER! TOP PRIORITY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T FIND BULLSEYE?! GET MY ROLODEX!
NO, LOOK UNDER H! H FOR HITMEN, NOT ASSASSINS, YOU PUTZ!

YOU'RE HERE FOR ME... AREN'T YOU? I'VE HAD DREAMS...
...YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO HELL WITH YOU.
NO. HELL'S NO PLACE FOR AN ANGEL LIKE YOU. YOU CAN STOP WORRYING.

I'M HERE FOR SOMEONE ELSE... SOMEONE WHO BELONGS THERE.



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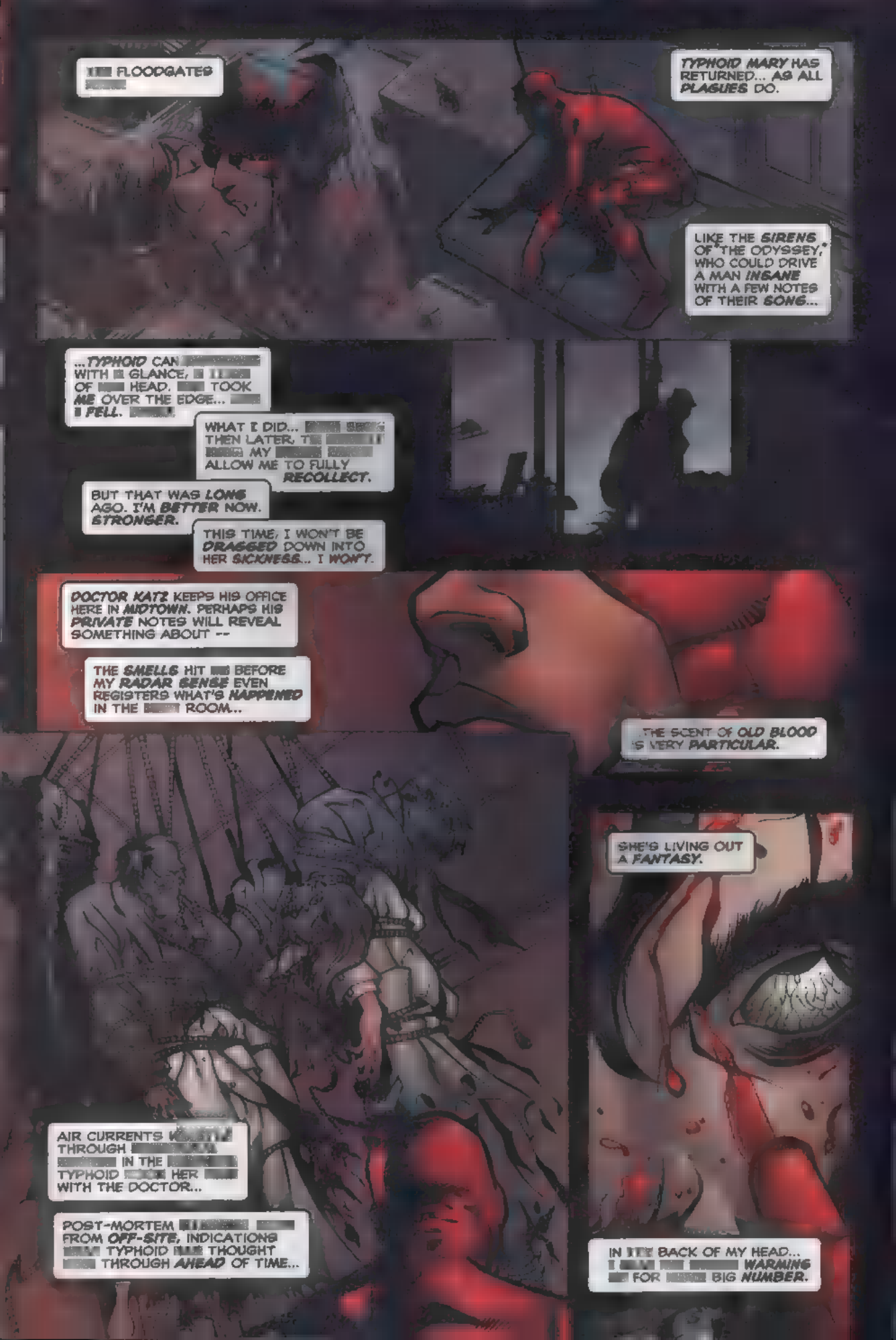
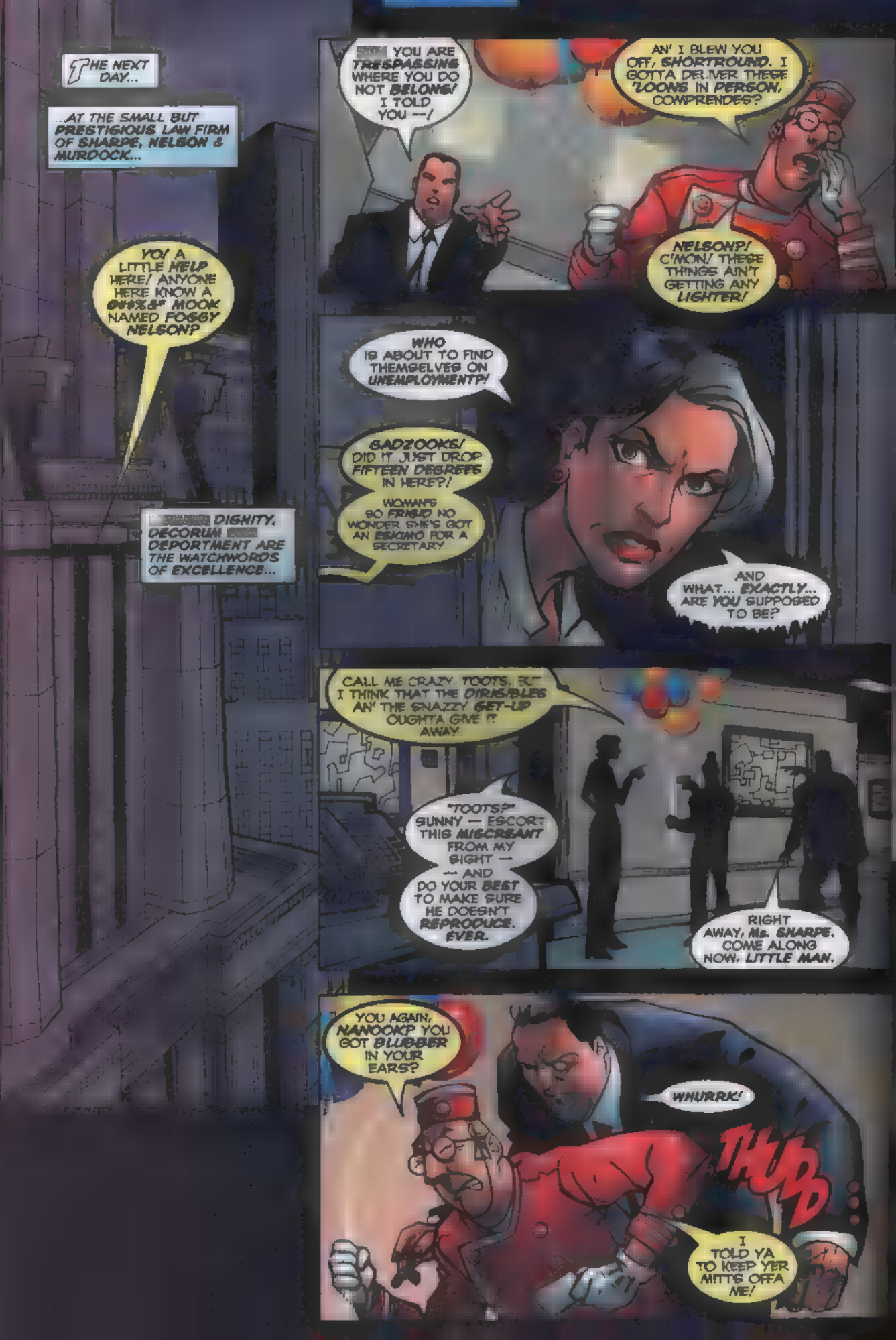
I TAKE THE *CITY* INTO ME. *ALL* OF IT.
EVERY *SMELL* SPUTTERING UPWARDS FROM *FESTERING* ALLEYS...
...EVERY FUGITIVE VIBRATION RICOCHETING AROUND THE GLASS AND STEEL CANYON...
I LET IT ALL *SLAP* ME IN THE FACE AS I *PLUMMET* SEVENTY STORIES, TRYING TO FILL MY *HEAD* WITH ADRENALINE AND *BLOODRUSH*...
...HOPING TO *OVERWHELM* MY *HYPER-SENSES*... *CLOG* MY MIND...
...OBLITERATE THE IMAGE OF *HER FACE*, THE MEMORY OF HER *LIPS*.
THE *TASTE* OF --
IT'S NOT *ENOUGH*.


THE FLOODGATES
TYPHOID MARY HAS RETURNED... AS ALL PLAGUES DO.
LIKE THE SIRENS OF "THE ODYSSEY," WHO COULD DRIVE A MAN INSANE WITH A FEW NOTES OF THEIR SONG...
...TYPHOID CAN WITH A GLANCE, OF HEAD. TOOK ME OVER THE EDGE... I FELL.
WHAT I DID... THEN LATER, MY ALLOW ME TO FULLY RECOLLECT.
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO. I'M BETTER NOW. STRONGER.
THIS TIME, I WON'T BE DRAGGED DOWN INTO HER SICKNESS... I WON'T.
DOCTOR KATZ KEEPS HIS OFFICE HERE IN MIDTOWN. PERHAPS HIS PRIVATE NOTES WILL REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT --
THE SMELLS HIT BEFORE MY RADAR SENSE EVEN REGISTERS WHAT'S HAPPENED IN THE ROOM...
THE SCENT OF OLD BLOOD IS VERY PARTICULAR.
SHE'S LIVING OUT A FANTASY.
AIR CURRENTS THROUGH IN THE TYPHOID HER WITH THE DOCTOR...
POST-MORTEM FROM OFF-SITE, INDICATIONS TYPHOID THOUGHT THROUGH AHEAD OF TIME...
IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD... WARMING FOR BIG NUMBER.

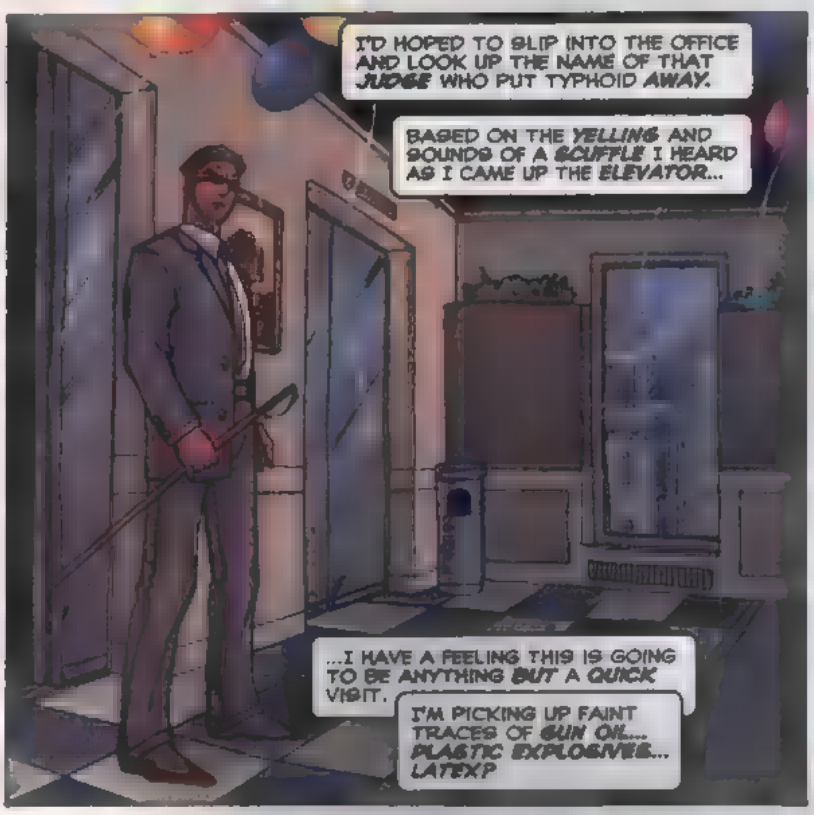
START SPREADING THE NEWWWWS... YOU'RE DYING TODAYYYY... BE-CAUSE YOU TRIED TO RIP ME OFF, IN OLD... NEW YORRRKK!
YOU'RE GONNA WAKE UP! WITH A HE▓▓ACHE THAT DOESN'T CEASE!
AND FIND YOUR NECK IN A BRACE, LEGS ▓ ▓ CAST, SPLEEN IN A DISH...
EVERYBODY, BIG FINISH --!
...GASP-PING FOR BREEAAAATH!
Uh... DEADPOOL? I ENJOY A GOOD BUSKING AND ALL, BUT THIS LITTLE REVUE IS GONNA GET US PINCHED.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU DON'T GET CHICKS, WEASEL... YOU NEVER TAKE TIME TO ENJOY THE MOMENT.
ALRIGHT, SO ENOUGH WITH THE HARMONIZING... WHERE WAS I? OH! ABOUT TO BEAT YOU SENSELESS FOR TRYING TO GOUGE THE FARE ON ME AN' MY PAL...
DUDE, IT'S MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB... I WAS LOST... Oh GOD, ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
THAT'S THE FIFTY DOLLAR QUESTION, ISN'T IT, LATKAP
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE LET YOUR FELLOW NEWYORCANS DECIDE! SINCE THEY'RE ALL SOOO CONCERNED...

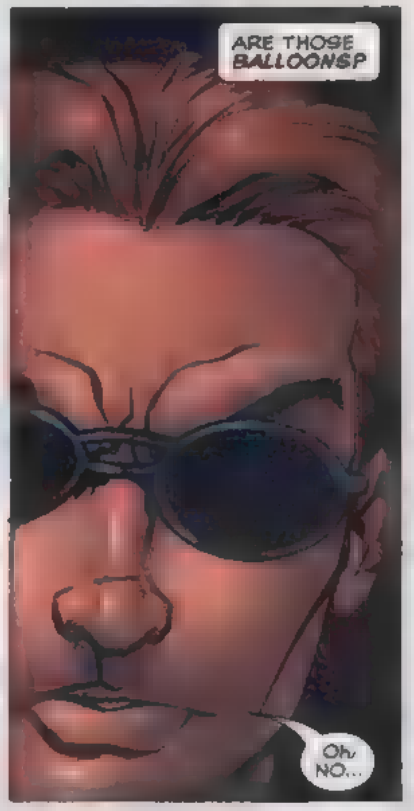
WELL, LADIES AND JERKS OF THE JURY?
Um... I DON'T KNOW... DID HE REALLY DO IT?
EXCELLENT QUESTIONING, PERRY MASON! ANSWER THE MAN HONESTLY, JEEVES --
AND PLEASE, SPEAK CLEARLY INTO THE MICROPHONE...
ALRIGHT! I ADMIT IT! IT'S TRUE!
I WAS RUNNING UP THE PRICE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE TWO DUMB HICKS FROM WISCONSIN!
NOT EVERYONE'S FROM NEW YORK.
BOO!
BOO!
STRING HIM UP!
RUN HIM OVER WITH HIS OWN CAB!
DO HIM!
GET MEDIEVAL ON HIS BUTTOCKS!
I'M FROM WISCONSIN. WE MAKE CHEESE.
AND NOW... MOB JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED ON THE PROMENADE DECK.
SIGH! SERVE IT QUICK, WADE, I HEAR SIRENS...
PLEEEASE...
THE SWEET KISS OF VENGEANCE IN THE HANDS OF THE PROLETARIAT AT LAST...
...NOOGIE!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE! RIGHT ON. DIG IT.

REPORTS PUT A RED CLAD SOLDIER OF SOME SORT AT THE SCENE ---
-- WHO LEFT THE [redacted] WITH [redacted]... IS THIS RIGHT? A WEDGIE --
CLICK
I [redacted] KNOW [redacted] YOU DO IT, [redacted]
...I COULD [redacted] LIVE [redacted] SO AFFLICTED WITH [redacted] SO MUCH FUN... I'D SIMPLY GO [redacted] WITH ALL THE POSSIBILITIES.
GLLCHH
WHAT'S THAT. [redacted] THERE [redacted] YOU SAY? [redacted]...
...BUT [redacted] THAT ARGUMENT, [redacted] IT, BABY?
NOTHING CAN PROTECT US FROM DESTINY... WE'RE ON A COLLISION COURSE... ALL OF US...
GLLCHH
ANGELS AND DEVILS ALIKE... WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
N-N-NO!
SLASH
DEADPOOL, MEET DAREDEVIL...
DAREDEVIL... DIE.


THE NEXT DAY...
...AT THE SMALL BUT PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRM OF SHARPE, NELSON & MURDOCK...
YO! A LITTLE HELP HERE! ANYONE HERE KNOW A @#%&* MOOK NAMED FOGGY NELSON?
DIGNITY, DECORUM DEPORTMENT ARE THE WATCHWORDS OF EXCELLENCE...
YOU ARE TRESPASSING WHERE YOU DO NOT BELONG! I TOLD YOU --!
AN' I BLEW YOU OFF, SHORTROUND. I GOTTA DELIVER THESE 'LOONS IN PERSON, COMPRENDES?
NELSON?! C'MON! THESE THINGS AIN'T GETTING ANY LIGHTER!
WHO IS ABOUT TO FIND THEMSELVES ON UNEMPLOYMENT?
GADZOOKS! DID IT JUST DROP FIFTEEN DEGREES IN HERE?!
WOMAN'S SO FRIGID NO WONDER SHE'S GOT AN ESKIMO FOR A SECRETARY.
AND WHAT... EXACTLY... ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
CALL ME CRAZY, TOOTS, BUT I THINK THAT THE DIRIGIBLES AN' THE SNAZZY GET-UP OUGHTA GIVE IT AWAY.
"TOOTS?" SUNNY — ESCORT THIS MISCREANT FROM MY SIGHT — — AND DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T REPRODUCE. EVER.
RIGHT AWAY, Ms. SHARPE. COME ALONG NOW, LITTLE MAN.
YOU AGAIN, NANOOKP YOU GOT BLUBBER IN YOUR EARS?
WHURRK!
THUD
I TOLD YA TO KEEP YER MITTS OFFA ME!

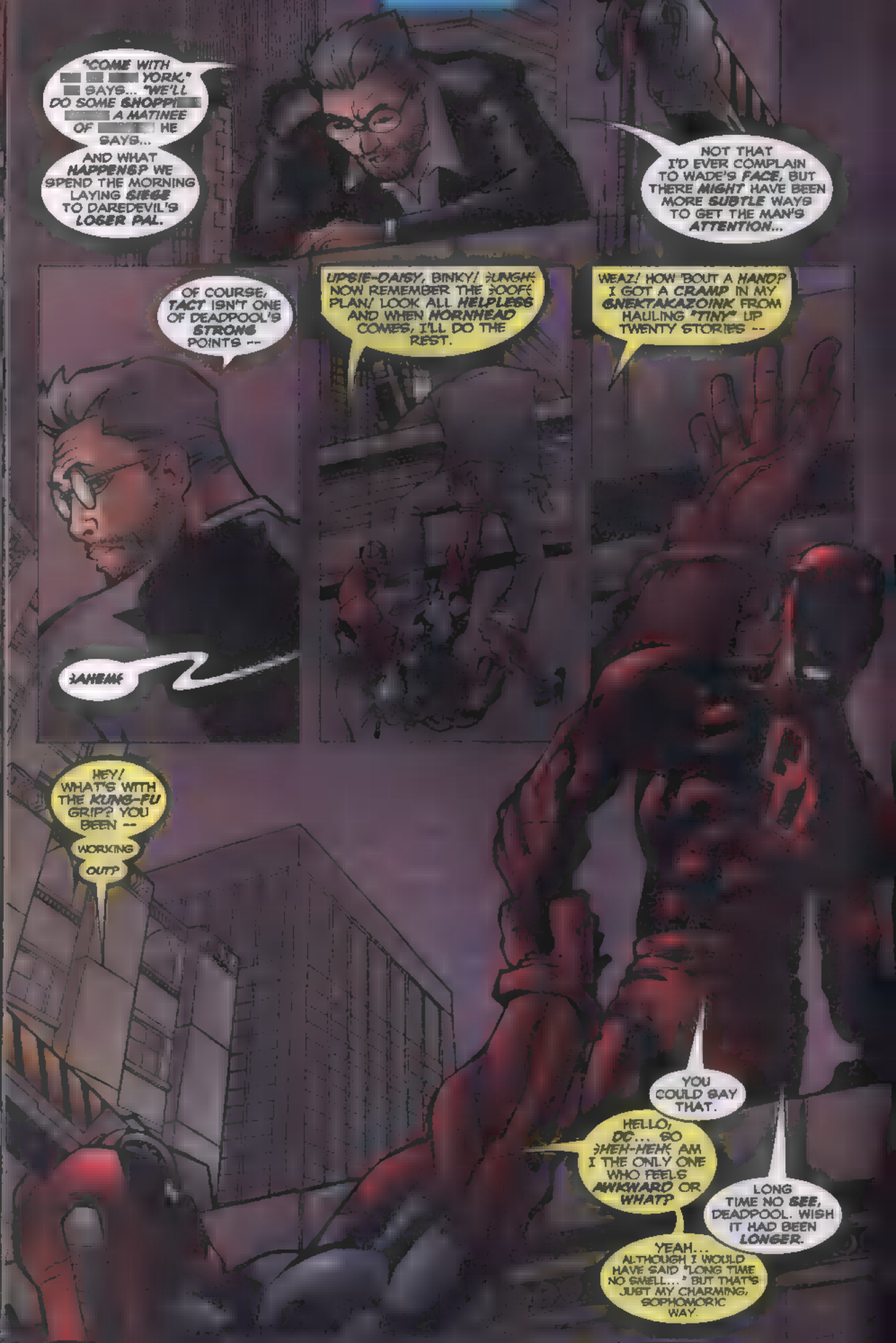
LOOK, SWEETCHEEKS... I GET SIX FIFTY AN HOUR TO SLING THIS INFLATABLE JOY. IT'S ALL I GOT, AN' I AIM T'KEEP THIS GIG --
NOW, YOU GONNA STOP BREAKIN' MY BALLOONS AND TELL ME WHERE NELSON IS, OR DO I HAVE TO GET ROUGH?
FOR [redacted] YOU'RE AWFULLY TENACIOUS.
THANKS. I'M UP FER A PROMOTION.
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S ALL THE YELLING ABOUT, ROSALIND --?
SUNNYP! YOU OKAY --?
GNRR
FRANKLIN, CALL THE POLICE!
AH-HA! THE FOGSTER HIMSELF, I PRESUME! SUPER! HERE'S YOUR MESSAGE...
"ROSES ARE RED, WINDOWS ARE GLASS, TAKE ME TO DAREDEVIL OR I'LL GUT YOUR FAT --"
[redacted]VILP! WHO ARE [redacted]U? GET OUT [redacted]
GNRRRWR
CUTE POOCH. HE DO TRICKS?
SIT!
WINE


I'D HOPED TO SLIP INTO THE OFFICE AND LOOK UP THE NAME OF THAT JUDGE WHO PUT TYPHOID AWAY.
BASED ON THE YELLING AND SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE I HEARD AS I CAME UP THE ELEVATOR...
...I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE ANYTHING BUT A QUICK VISIT.
I'M PICKING UP FAINT TRACES OF GUN OIL... PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES... LATEX?


ARE THOSE BALLOONS?
Oh, NO...

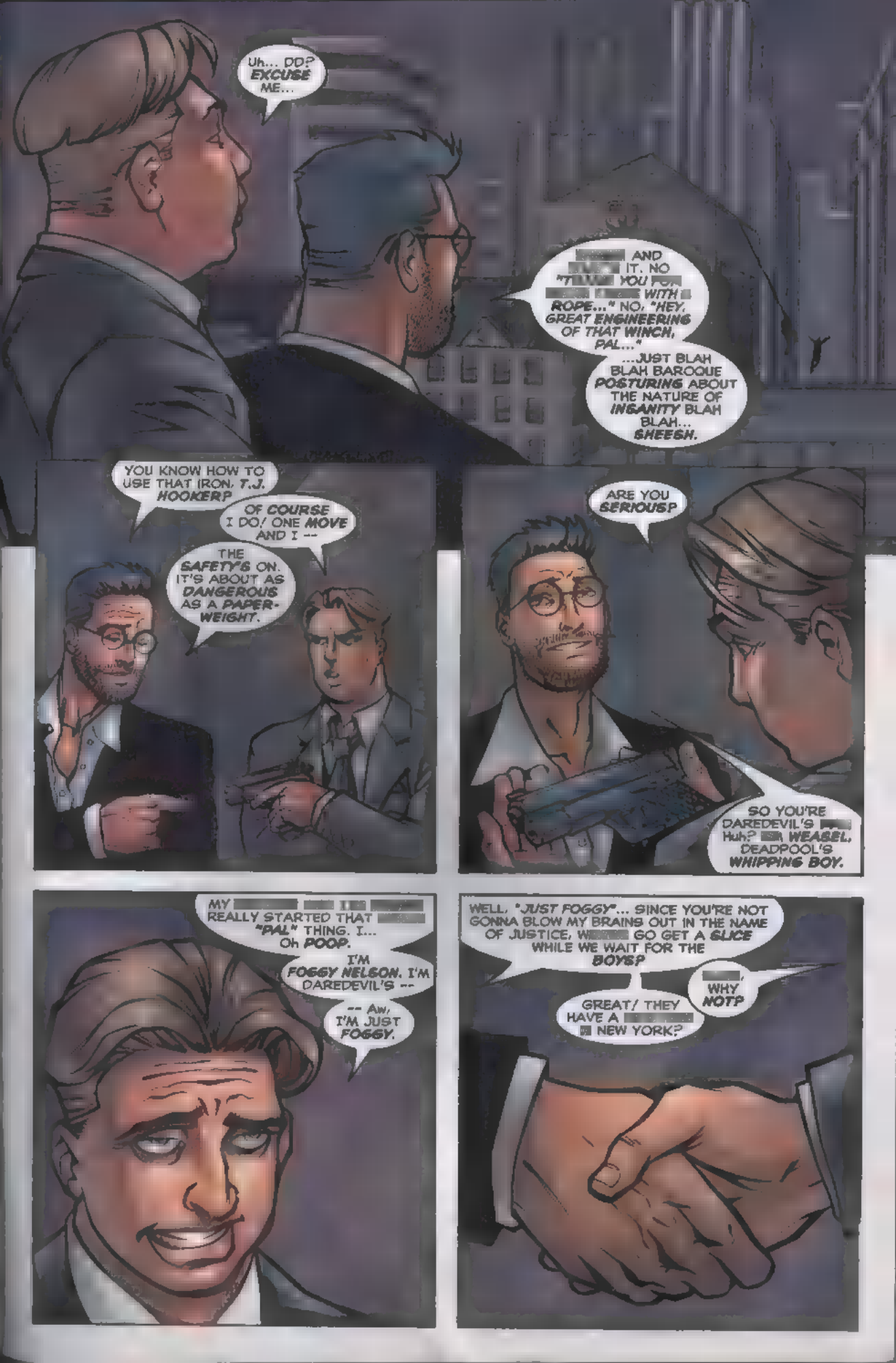
DEADPOOL! WHAT IS THAT DIRTY MERCENARY DOING -- HE'S GOT FOGGY!
LET'S GO PORK-BOY. I GOT A HANKERIN' TO CHAT WITH THE REDMAN, AND YOU'RE MY TICKET IN!
FOGGY? WHAT'S GOING --
WATCH WHERE I'M GOING, POINDEXTER! PROFESSIONAL KIDNAPPING IN PROGRESS!
HAVE TO PLAY UP THE HELPLESS BLIND LAWYER ACT UNTIL I CAN SLIP AWAY AND CHANGE. BETTER LET THEM GET TO THE ELEVATOR --
M-MATT?
I SENSE A SLIGHT MAGNETIC DISTORTION AROUND HIS BODY... HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR.
IN THE WORDS OF THE IMMORTAL SNAGGLEPUSS...

KSHHHH
EXIT, STAGE RIGHT!
FRANKLIN! NO!
FOGGY! MY GOD! DEADPOOL'S COMPLETELY INSANE!
I CAN'T SEE THEM! WHERE'S MY SON?!
I [redacted] NOTHING BELOW BUT THE BOTTOM, Ms. SHARPE.
WIND'S WHISTLING AGAINST SOMETHING... A CORDP
THE ROOF!
SHUFF
GEEZ, NELSON! YOU EVER HEARD OF A GYMP TRY LIFTING SOMETHING BESIDES A SWEET ROLL EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!
NONE OF THOSE LAWYERS ON L.A. LAW WERE PACKIN' AS MUCH BLOATUS CORPUS AS YOU! EVEN THAT ARNIE GUY...
Oh GOD! Oh GOD!
I MEAN, WE'D PICK ON BENNIE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE VERY P.C. OF US...
DON'T DROP ME!
AHHHH, QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING AND ENJOY THE VIEW, SISSY BOY. I'M NOT GOING TO DROP YOU! NOW, LISTEN UP...

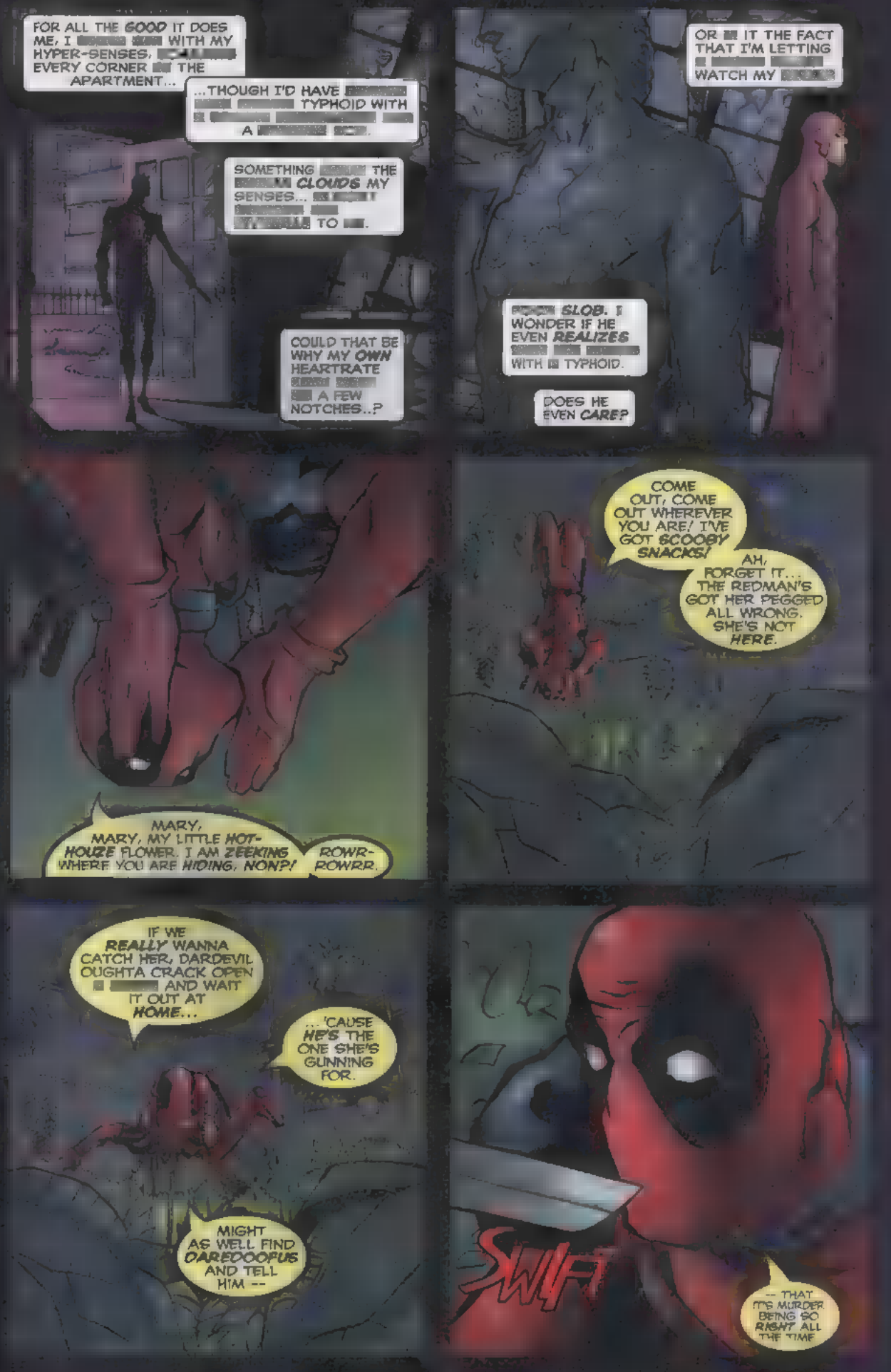

"COME WITH [redacted] YORK," [redacted] SAYS... "WE'LL DO SOME SHOPPI[redacted] A MATINEE OF [redacted] HE SAYS...
AND WHAT HAPPENS? WE SPEND THE MORNING LAYING SIEGE TO DAREDEVIL'S LOSER PAL.
NOT THAT I'D EVER COMPLAIN TO WADE'S FACE, BUT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE SUBTLE WAYS TO GET THE MAN'S ATTENTION...
OF COURSE, TACT ISN'T ONE OF DEADPOOL'S STRONG POINTS --
AHEM!
UPSIE-DAISY, BINKY! *UNGH* NOW REMEMBER THE *OOF* PLAN! LOOK ALL HELPLESS AND WHEN MORNHEAD COMES, I'LL DO THE REST.
WEAZ! HOW 'BOUT A HAND? I GOT A CRAMP IN MY SNEKTAKAZOINK FROM HAULING "TINY" UP TWENTY STORIES --
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE KUNG-FU GRIP? YOU BEEN --
WORKING OUT?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
HELLO, DC... SO *HEH-HEH* AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS AWKWARD OR WHAT?
LONG TIME NO SEE, DEADPOOL. WISH IT HAD BEEN LONGER.
YEAH... ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE SAID "LONG TIME NO SMELL..." BUT THAT'S JUST MY CHARMING, SOPHOMORIC WAY.

I [redacted] TO WASTE ON YOU, DEADPOOL, SO GIVE ME A REASON NOT TO MAKE IT EASY AND LET GO.
I'LL GIVE YOU TWO. FIRST, IT WOULD RUIN YOUR HONORABLE STANDING IN THE GIRL SCOUTS...
...THE SECOND STARTS WITH "TYPHOID," ENDS IN "MARY" AND [redacted] DECLARED A LOONEY-TUNE BY THE SURGEON GENERAL.
TYPHOID.
OKAY, [redacted] SPIT IT OUT [redacted] THROW YOU BACK.
CARPOOL, SEE, NEVER HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE. OKAY, HERE'S THE GIG...
...MARY AND I HAVE RECENTLY BECOME... UH... FRIENDS FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD...
BOO.
STOP IT.
SHE TOLD [redacted] DURING A TENDER MOMENT IN A FIRE-FIGHT THAT [redacted] TO MURDERIZE YOUR HIGHNESS FOR DOING HER WRONG...
...AND TAKE OUT ANYONE WHO EVER LOOKED IN YOUR GENERAL DIRECTION, JUST FOR FUN.
EVEN I KNOW THAT'S PRETTY AMBITIOUS FOR SOMEONE IN HER... MENTAL CONDITION, SO I CAME TO PUT THE KIBOSH ON THE FIELD TRIP.
SHE'S A SICK PUPPY, DD. I THINK YOU KNOW THAT OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE PUT HER AWAY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I JUST WANT TO SEE THAT SHE GETS THE HELP SHE NEEDS, Y'KNOW?
I'D BET MY BILLY CLUB HE'S ONE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERPS WHO BROKE TYPHOID OUT [redacted] FIRST PLACE...
...[redacted] TELLING [redacted] TRUTH/ NO [redacted] IN HIS HEARTBEAT AT ALL!
OKAY, LET'S SAY I BUY THIS YARN... WHY KIDNAP FOGGY?
YOU'RE NOT LISTED UNDER FASHION-IMPAIRED-DO-GOODERS, AND THE LIGHT'S OUT ON THE DEVIL SIGNAL...
...FIGURED YOU'D WANT IN TO HELP OUT YOUR OLD FRIEND.
CLUNK

FRIEND?
TYPHOID MARY IS NO ONE'S FRIEND.
THE WOMAN IS A PLAGUE. SHE IS ALL THAT IS CHAOTIC AND HURTFUL IN HUMAN NATURE.
WITHOUT HER [redacted] TO KEEP HER IN SHE WILL [redacted] YOU, BURN YOU, AND DANCE ON [redacted]
YEAH... AIN'T SHE DREAMY?
THIS IS NOT A JOKING MATTER! SHE IS NOT YOUR FRIEND, SHE'S A MONSTER!
MAYBE... BUT WE MONSTERS TEND TO STICK TOGETHER. WE FREAKS HAVE TO HUDDLE UP AGAINST THE WORLD THAT MADE US...
...THE WORLD YOU SO HAPPILY CALL HOME. MARY WASN'T BORN LIKE THIS; SHE WAS MANUFACTURED. SHE'S SOMEONE'S FAULT.
YOU MIGHT [redacted] REMEMBER THAT WHILE [redacted] HER, HERO...
...JUST SO'S YOU DON'T PUT HER DOWN... ACCIDENTAL LIKE.
'CAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE CLIMBED WAY UNDER YOUR SKIN, DD... DEEP.
DON'T PRESUME TO LECTURE ME ON MORALITY, MERC.
I WILL SEE [redacted] THE [redacted] OF [redacted] MORE, [redacted] YOU WANT TO RUN BACK-UP, FINE.
BUT WHEN WE CATCH UP WITH TYPHOID... NON-INTERFERENCE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
OH, THIS IS GONNA BE A BARREL OF LAUGHS.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT SENSE OF HUMOR YOU SUPPOSEDLY DISCOVERED...?


Uh... DD? EXCUSE ME...
[redacted] AND [redacted] IT. NO "[redacted] YOU FOR [redacted] WITH ROPE..." NO, "HEY, GREAT ENGINEERING OF THAT WINCH, PAL..."
...JUST BLAH BLAH BAROQUE POSTURING ABOUT THE NATURE OF INSANITY BLAH BLAH... SHEESH.
YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT IRON, T.J. HOOKER?
OF COURSE I DO! ONE MOVE AND I --
THE SAFETY'S ON. IT'S ABOUT AS DANGEROUS AS A PAPER-WEIGHT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SO YOU'RE DAREDEVIL'S [redacted] Huh? [redacted] WEASEL. DEADPOOL'S WHIPPING BOY.
MY [redacted] REALLY STARTED THAT [redacted] "PAL" THING. I... Oh POOP.
I'M FOGGY NELSON. I'M DAREDEVIL'S --
-- AW, I'M JUST FOGGY.
WELL, "JUST FOGGY"... SINCE YOU'RE NOT GONNA BLOW MY BRAINS OUT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, W[redacted] GO GET A SLICE WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE BOYS?
[redacted] WHY NOT?
GREAT! THEY HAVE A [redacted] NEW YORK?

LATER, AN EXCLUSIVE HIGH-RISE ON CENTRAL PARK EAST...
ARE WE THERE, YET?
WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME THAT?
'CAUSE I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY "NOT YET MY LITTLE SHURF..." DON'T YOU EVER WATCH THE CARTOON NETWORK?
SIGH IF ONLY IT WAS THE EARS INSTEAD OF THE EYES...
QUIET. LISTEN UP. THE JUDGE WHO PUT TYPHOID AWAY LIVES HERE. I THINK SHE'S GOING TO --
NICE DIGS/ GUESS JUSTICE DOES PAY/ MAYBE I SHOULD TRADE IN MY MAGNUM FOR A GAVEL...
...OF COURSE, I'M NOT HARDLY CROOKED ENOUGH...
BUT YOU'RE ABOUT AS STEALTHY AS A FREIGHT TRAIN. PEOPLE ACTUALLY HIRE YOU TO SNEAK INTO PLACES?
FWAP
AND HE STICKS THE DISMOUNT IN SPITE OF THE TWISTED ANKLE! BELA RUSHES OVER FOR A BEAR HUG...
WHEN THEY BUY ME, THEY'RE BUYING STYLE, BABE...
I'LL START AT THE GROUND FLOOR. [redacted] THE [redacted], MOVE SLOWLY. [redacted] CHANCES. IF YOU SEE TYPHOID, SCREAM.
OKAY, DADDY... AFTER THIS CAN WE GO TO CENTRAL PARK AND WATCH THE BUMS SCARE TOURISTS? HUH? CAN WE?
YOU [redacted] I [redacted] GOING TO [redacted] A VERY SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP.


FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES ME, I [illegible] WITH MY HYPER-SENSES, [illegible] EVERY CORNER [illegible] THE APARTMENT...
...THOUGH I'D HAVE [illegible] TYPHOID WITH A [illegible].
SOMETHING [illegible] THE [illegible] CLOUDS MY SENSES... [illegible] TO [illegible].
COULD THAT BE WHY MY OWN HEARTRATE [illegible] A FEW NOTCHES..?
OR [illegible] IT THE FACT THAT I'M LETTING [illegible] WATCH MY [illegible]
[illegible] SLOB. I WONDER IF HE EVEN REALIZES [illegible] WITH [illegible] TYPHOID.
DOES HE EVEN CARE?
MARY, MARY, MY LITTLE HOT-HOUZE FLOWER. I AM ZEEKING WHERE YOU ARE HIDING, NON?!
ROWR-ROWRR.
COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE! I'VE GOT SCOOBY SNACKS!
AH, FORGET IT... THE REDMAN'S GOT HER PEGGED ALL WRONG. SHE'S NOT HERE.
IF WE REALLY WANNA CATCH HER, DARDEVIL OUGHTA CRACK OPEN [illegible] AND WAIT IT OUT AT HOME...
...'CAUSE HE'S THE ONE SHE'S GUNNING FOR.
MIGHT AS WELL FIND DAREDOOFUS AND TELL HIM --
SWIFT
-- THAT IT'S MURDER BEING SO RIGHT ALL THE TIME

ALWAYS LEADING WITH YOUR MOUTH, SWEETIE...
NOT THING... BUT IT'S A WAY TO YOUR HEAD.
YEAH... I GOTTA WORK ON THAT.
SHOULD PROBABLY START FLOSSING, TOO.
I KNEW SOMEDAY MY PRINCE WOULD COME...I JUST NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO BE SO EASY TO GET THE DROP ON.
THEY DON'T MAKE PRINCES LIKE THEY USED TO...
...AND INCIDENTALLY, I'M THE PRINCE FORMERLY KNOWN AS "PRINCE." CALL ME ☺.
WAIT, SOMEONE BEAT ME TO --
MMFF?
HAVE I CHARMED THE PANTS OFF OF YOU YET?

JUDGING BY THE BODY'S *TEMPERATURE*, I'D SAY WE MISSED [redacted] ABOUT [redacted]
NOTHING TO DO BUT PRESS [redacted] EAR TO [redacted] WE [redacted] —
THAT [redacted]...
[redacted]
IS THAT *IDIOT* TAKING A *BATH*?
GURGLE
GURGLE
SSSSS
WOULDN'T WANT THE REDMAN TO *EAVESDROP*, NOW WOULD WE BABY?
HE'S STILL *SCOPING* THE FIRST FLOOR. HE CAN'T HEAR A *THING* --
YOU'D BE [redacted] THE DEVIL [redacted] *CAPABLE* [redacted]... DON'T [redacted] HIM.
HE SAYS THE SAME THINGS ABOUT *YOU*. IT'S A REGULAR *MUTUAL ADMIRATION* SOCIETY.
LET'S NOT [redacted] ABOUT [redacted]... JUST [redacted] *HEAT*... I COULD [redacted] *USED* TO THIS
DON'T. I KNOW ENOUGH *CLICHES* NOT TO MIX BUSINESS AND *PLEASURE*. BLEACH AND AMMONIA, *NEITHER*.
YOU'VE GOT A *FINANCIAL DEBT* TO WORK OFF. YOU OWE ME *BIG* -- *DOUBLE* IN FACT, SINCE I WENT IN FOR THIS LITTLE *TRIP* OF YOURS --
BUT A *HAPPY* EMPLOYEE IS A *PRODUCTIVE* EMPLOYEE, SO I'M GAME TO HELP YOU *SET UP* THE REDMAN.
HE THINKS I'M HERE TO SAVE YOUR *SOUL* OR SOME *JUNK*... WHATTA *MAROON*. WHEN YOU GONNA HIT HIM WITH THE *COUP DE GRACE*?

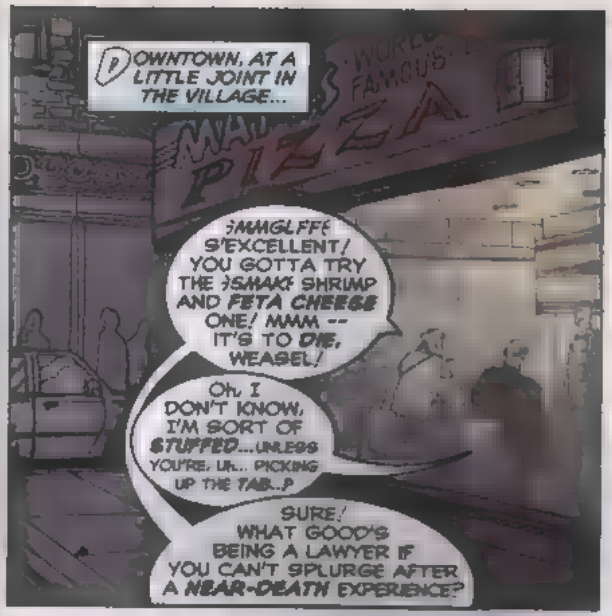
SOON... I HAVE A FEW LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP FIRST.
LOOSE ENDS?
FORMER... ACQUAINTANCES... WHO ALSO REQUIRE MY ATTENTION.
DAREDEVIL WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO USED ME, THOUGH HE WAS THE BEST AT IT...
THAT WASN'T THE DEAL.
MY FORMER DOCTORS... WHO HAVE FINALLY STOPPED PRACTICING
THE GOOD JUDGE... WHOSE BLOOD THE DEVIL IS TRIPPING THROUGH AS WE SPEAK --
YOU PSYCHOPATHIC WITCH!
I DIDN'T SIGN ON FOR THIS! I DIDN'T AGREE TO LET YOU COME HERE SO YOU COULD GO ON A MURDER SPREE!
YOU SAID YOU WERE AFTER DAREDEVIL!
I AM... THE OTHERS ARE WARM UP... THEY WHET MY BLADE...
NOT ANYMORE! DAREDEVIL'S ONE THING. HE'S A PLAYER, ONE OF US. THESE OTHER CHUMPS...
WHO ELSE DO YOU PLAN ON WHACKING?
NO MORE CIVILIANS, BABY... HONEST...
DON'T PLAY ME, MARY. I WANT THIS FINISHED. NOW.
ALRIGHT... HOWEVER YOU WANT IT I'LL GIVE YOU ALL YOU NEED TO SPRING THE TRAP... BUT FIRST...
...A LITTLE SOMETHING TO [redacted] YOU
YOUR [redacted]

HEAR A VOICE... DEADPOOL'S OF COURSE, AND...
AARGH
DEADPOOL!
SWEAT... CINNAMON... BLOOD... TYPHOID!
DEADPOOL! TALK TO ME!
SURE. JERK'S NOW HE WANTS ME TO SPEECHIFY WITH A HOLE IN MY LUNG...
SHE TAGGED ME [illegible] S REALLY GOING TO [illegible] ME... SNOOKERED [illegible]...
UN[illegible]. I [illegible] REALLY [illegible] NOT [illegible] THOUGHT [illegible] GOING TO [illegible]...
GONNA OWE THAT LITTLE --
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE JUDGE... THE DOCS... WE GOTTA GET HER BEFORE SHE MAKES THE NEXT HIT...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WENT?
WE'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL.
-KAAK- NO NEED, MAN. HEALIN' FACTOR... BETTER THAN CRAZY GLUE...
OH YEAH, REDMAN... I'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT TO HER.

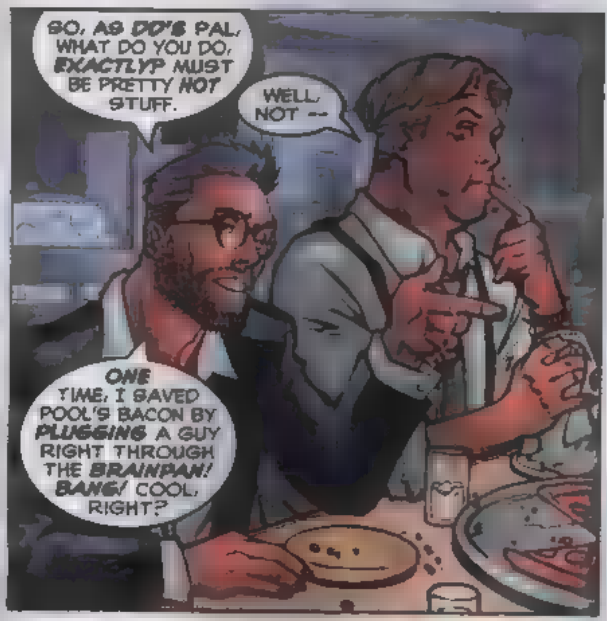
CHAPTER 2

THE
EXCLUSIVE.
SHOULD
OUR
MORE
OFTEN!
VINNIE THE ELBOW! ICED HIM IN HIS OWN HOME!
H-HEY BOSS...DON' GET ALL ME IF I
YOU AIN'T AFRAID
YOU?
NO...
NOT ANYMORE HE AIN'T.
SHE'S TOAST.
ALLA THE GODFATHER HOLED UP IN PLACE, AGAINST THE ONCOMING
STUPIDITY IN NUMBERS... YA GOTTA LOVE THE MOB. JUST AIN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE YOU TOOK OUT THE KINGPIN.
YOU REALLY WENT AND SCREWED THINGS UP.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.

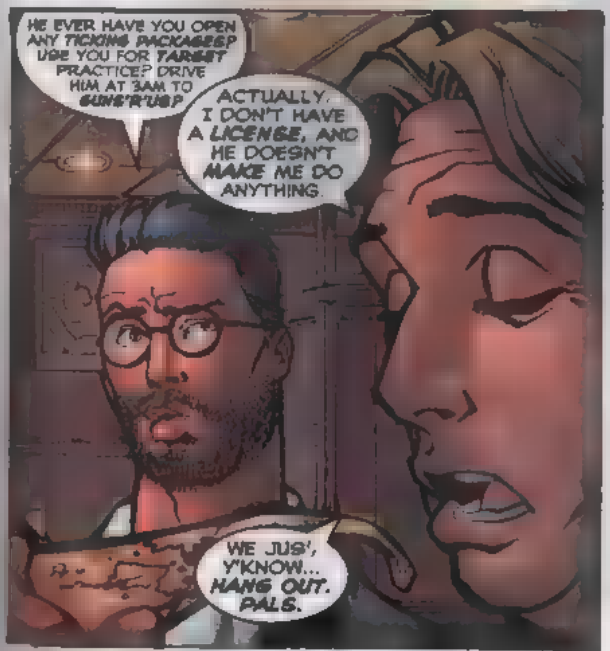
I [redacted] THE MURMUR OF AN [redacted]. THE CLINK OF GUNS. BLADES. THEY [redacted] PROBABLY TAKE A SMALL COUNTRY.
THEY ONLY BARELY OUTGUN [redacted].
A MOB VENDETTA, TOO? MARY MUST HAVE [redacted] A LOT [redacted] HER [redacted] AND [redacted]
YOU SAY SHE'S HEADED FOR THE CONTROL ROOM?
YEAH, SO YOU WANNA FLIP FOR WHO GETS TO YELL "SPOON" AS WE CHARGE IN?
[redacted] WAIT...BEFORE WE GO IN THERE AND THINGS GET ALL MIXED UP, WE HAVE TO TALK.
ARE WE GONNA [redacted] "NOT-[redacted]"
DON'T LET TYPHOID GET TO YOU. SHE HA[redacted]... A POWER OVER MEN. YOU MAY [redacted] YOU'VE GOT HER [redacted] OUT.
BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T. YOU [redacted]'T EVEN TRY...
ALL THAT LIES THERE IS DARKNESS.
YEAH, WELL... YOU DON'T GOTTA WORRY, REDMAN. I ALREADY LIVE IN THE DARK.
CHCHAK
LAST ONE T' BLOODY A MOBSTER IS A ROTTEN HERO.
DEADPOOL WAIT! YOU MUST KNOW THIS IS A TRAP!
OF COURSE IT IS! SO LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT ANYONE. THAT WOULD MAKE US RUDE GUESTS!
WHY [redacted] I [redacted] THINK THIS WAS [redacted] TO [redacted] GOOD IDEA?
SIDEKICKS.

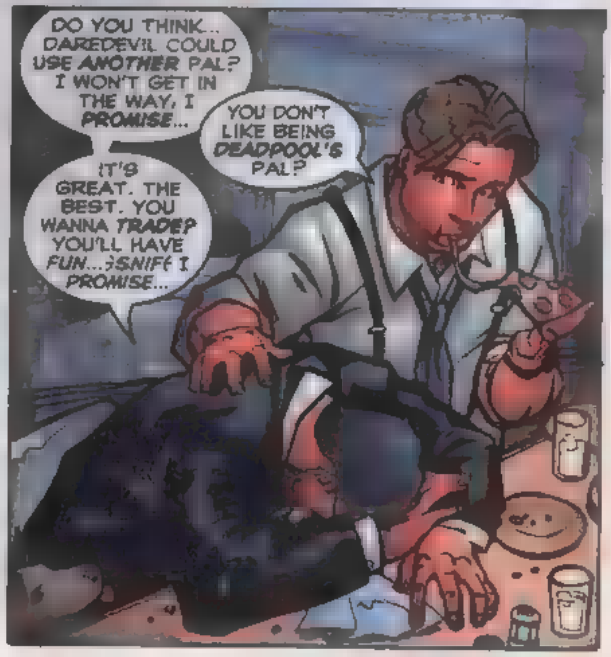

DOWNTOWN, AT A LITTLE JOINT IN THE VILLAGE...
WORLD FAMOUS
PIZZA
*MMGLFF! S'EXCELLENT/ YOU GOTTA TRY THE *SHAK! SHRIMP AND FETA CHEESE ONE/ MMM -- IT'S TO DIE, WEASEL/
Oh, I DON'T KNOW, I'M SORT OF STUFFED...UNLESS YOU'RE, Uh... PICKING UP THE TAB...?
SURE! WHAT GOOD'S BEING A LAWYER IF YOU CAN'T SPLURGE AFTER A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE?

EXCELLENT/ [redacted] YOU GO, [redacted] DADDY'S PICKIN' UP THE TAB/
SO WELL TRAINED... SEEIN' EYE DOG TOO, Huh?
SLURP


SO, AS DD'S PAL, WHAT DO YOU DO, EXACTLYP MUST BE PRETTY HOT STUFF.
WELL, NOT --
ONE TIME, I SAVED POOL'S BACON BY PLUGGING A GUY RIGHT THROUGH THE BRAINPAN! BANG/ COOL, RIGHT?

Oh HEAVENS... NO, I DON'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT/
COME ON, FOGGSTER, YOU CAN TELL ME... HE MAKE YOU CLEAN HIS WEAPONS? HACK INTO CIA COMPUTERS?
Uh, NO... TECHNOLOGY AND I AREN'T VERY COMPATIBLE...


HE EVER HAVE YOU OPEN ANY TICKING PACKAGES? USE YOU FOR TARGET PRACTICE? DRIVE HIM AT 3AM TO SUNE'R'UP?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE, AND HE DOESN'T MAKE ME DO ANYTHING.
WE JUS', Y'KNOW... HANG OUT. PALS.


DO YOU THINK... DAREDEVIL COULD USE ANOTHER PAL? I WON'T GET IN THE WAY, I PROMISE...
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING DEADPOOL'S PAL?
IT'S GREAT. THE BEST. YOU WANNA TRADE? YOU'LL HAVE FUN...*SNIFF I PROMISE...

LOCK AND LOAD, SOLDIERS...
INCOMING!
TOO SOUNDS SMELLS. SENSES...
BRAKKABKAK!!
TO HIT WHAT'S OF — HOPE DEADPOOL HIS OWN!
WOK CHOKK
WAIT, YOU! BLOODSHOT-EYED-ULTRA-ARMORED G.I. THAT BEARD IS MADE LIFE-LIKE HAIR, RIGHT?
OKAY, CAMPERS! EVERYONE LINE UP SINGLE FILE... ...IT'S POLKA TIME!
DEADPOOL! WHAT'S YOUR -- THAT NOISE!
AWWW! WHAT'D YOU GO AN' DO THAT FOR?! MOM LETS US SHOOT GUNS IN THE HOUSE...
SCHWOK
NO!
VREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

NO KILLING!
[redacted] TAKEN -- ALTHOUGH...
...YOU ONLY KILL FOR MONEY! THIS WOULD BE PRO BONO! WHAT WOULD THE UNION THINK?
SWIFT
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM, A PURIST? I KILL [redacted] FOR LOTS OF [redacted]
I KILL GUYS FOR [redacted] AT [redacted] FUNNY --
-- WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, YOU DO --
-- TALKING DOWN TO ME --
[redacted] NOT [redacted] TO BE DRAGGED DOWN TO [redacted] LEVEL!
IN CASE YOU FORGOT... I SORT OF ALREADY HAVE A LOCK ON THAT LEVEL...
-- WHICH I'VE NOTICED YOU'RE ALSO PRONE TO DO ON OCCASION -- WHOA --
-- AND SOMETIMES, SUNSHINE, I LIKE TO OFF A GUY, JUST FOR LOOKIN' [redacted] LIKE [redacted] BLIND [redacted] DRESSED [redacted] --
-- AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW? THAT WOULD BE YOU, TOO!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...IF THERE WAS ANYONE I WAS BORN TO KILL... IT'S YOU! SAYONARA, SUCKER!

IT'S A WAR ZONE IN THERE... FREAKIN' BEAUTIFUL!
[redacted] THE #@$%&* IS HE DOING HERE? THIS IS FOR [redacted]
AND WHO'S THE MOTORMOUTH WITH THE GUN [redacted]
[redacted] IS THAT CRAZY [redacted] I DON'T SEE [redacted] THE [redacted]
YOU DON'T THINK --?
LITTLE [redacted] WITH THEIR TOYS... BUT STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY HIDE [redacted] SEEK...
WHAT THE --?!
DON'T MOVE! DON'T #@$%&* MOVE!
GOT AN ARSENAL OF THE UGLIEST MEAT IN NEW YORK GUARDING THE ROOF, THE DOORS, THE GARAGE...
...BUT YOU'RE SO AFRAID THAT [redacted] MIGHT STAB YOU IN THE BACK --
-- YOU LEAVE YOUR SUPER DUPER DOUBLE SECRET RABBIT HOLE UNGUARDED. WELL... ...NOT COMPLETELY UNGUARDED.
CAN I OFFER ANYONE ANYTHING TO DRINK BEFORE THE SCREAMING STARTS?
DID DEADPOOL JUST SAY HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME? WHAT IS HE --
WHOA.

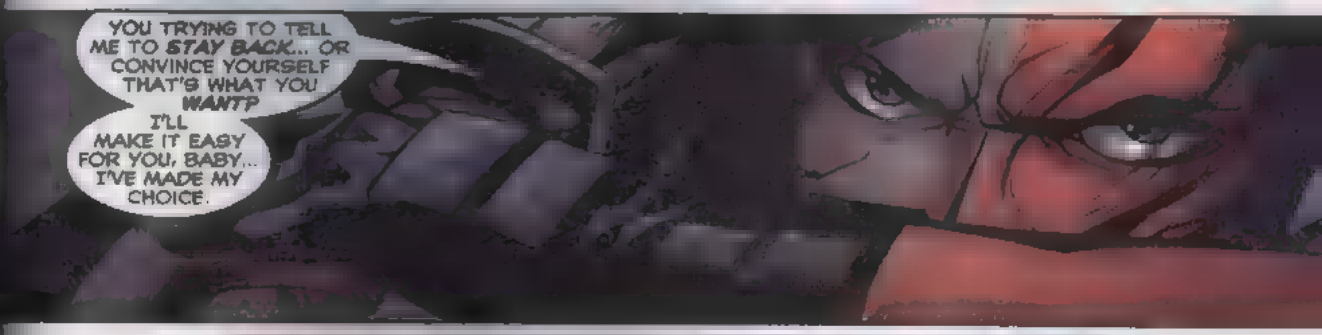
I'M AN IDIOT. NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED HIM.
SWIIIFFF
IT'S A MISTAKE THAT MAY COST ME MY --
?
SHUNK
?
Oh. OKAY, BUT STILL...
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
YOU'RE WELCOME! AND DON'T GET YER HORNS IN AN UPROAR, DD, HE WON'T DIE...
...I GUESS...
...I AIMED FOR THE SPLEEN!
GLOKK
Uip?
I MEAN SERIOUSLY, WHAT DOES THE SPLEEN DO, ANYWAY? YOU KNOW, HANDSOMEP
ISN'T IT FOR DIGESTING SWALLOWED GUM OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT --?
NOOOO!
OKAY, SO I'M WRONG... YOU GOTTA TELL EVERYONEP JEEZ!

NOW THAT WAS A HIGH-BURN WORKOUT! RICHARD SIMMONS WOULD BE PROUD --
-- IF I DIDN'T SNAP HIM IN TWO FOR BEING AN AFFECTED DWEEB --
-- DON'T YOU THINK, OH HORNY ONE?
WHATEVER YOU SAY... ONE... THAT WE'VE SEPARATED THE FROM THE MY SENSES ON-LINE TO TRY FIND
ASCERBIC? I'M NOT FROM SERBIA... I'M ADORABLE.
BLAM BLAM
GUNFIRE! IT'S TYPHOID!
NAB HER, DEVIL-DOG! BEFORE THE CHUMP PATROL COMES TO THEIR SENSES --
BUT WHAT ABOUT --
GO! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU AFTER I CLEAN UP HERE...
...AND THEN WE CAN BRING TO
WASN'T THAT A GREAT ROUND OF BLEED-TAG, GIRLS?
WHAT DO YOU SAY PLAY ER OF MY FAVORITE GAMES..?
HOT POTATO.

HERE... I IT. THE AIR IN IS .
THERE'S THE OR A THE HEAT...
I STRETCH SENSES TO THEIR LIMITS...
HELLO BABY
FOR A SECOND, MY
I DON'T EVEN MYSELF
THEN THERE IS ONLY RINGING... AND HER VOICE.
NOW THAT IS HOW I LIKE MY MEN.
KNEW YOU'D TRY TO USE YOUR SUPER-SENSES TO FIND ME. MATTHEW, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE USELESS...
CLICK
TOP-OF-THE-LINE AUDIO DID THE REST... IS ALL. LOUD. THANKS FOR BEING SO PREDICTABLE.
SO... LONG TIME NO SCREAM.

HOW'S THE GIRLFRIEND? JOB? [redacted] FIT --
TYPHOID... YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS... GET BACK TO --
-- YOUR TREATMENT...
[redacted] BETTER THAN SHOCK [redacted]
DON'T... DARE... CALL ME THAT.
[redacted] THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING... SHOCKING MY SYSTEM.
PURGING IT...
...OF EVERY MAN WHO EVER DID POOR LITTLE MARY WRONG.
BUT DON'T WORRY, BABY. AS ALWAYS, [redacted] SAVING THE BEST...
...FOR YOU!
WHOOLA!
M-MARY... MARY, YOU CAN FIGHT TYPHOID... YOU'VE MADE PROGRESS.
I HAVE MADE PROGRESS, MATT, YOU'RE RIGHT. ALL THAT TIME IN THERAPY HELPED ME TO REALIZE...
...THAT LITTLE MISS MARY IS DEAD!

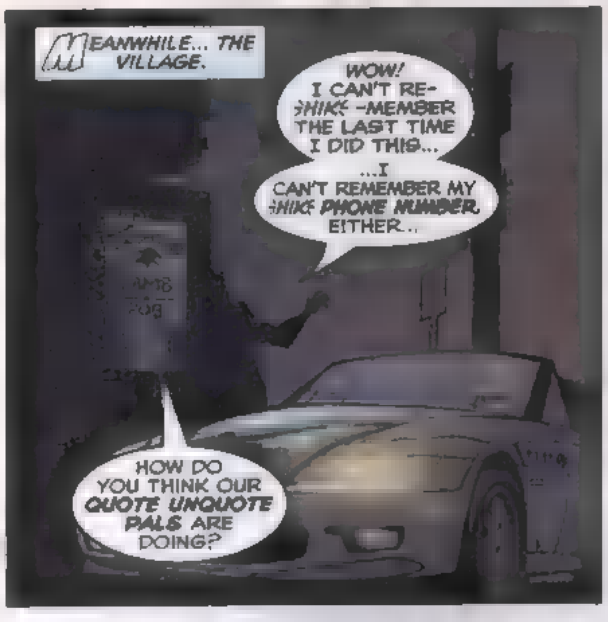
I KILLED MARY [redacted] SHE DOESN'T EXIST ANY[redacted] DID.
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, [redacted] WILL ALWAYS BE
DON'T TOUCH ME!
FWAT
Oooh! YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT WITH MUCH CONVICTION, REDMAN...


YOU TRYING TO TELL ME TO STAY BACK... OR CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU, BABY... I'VE MADE MY CHOICE.

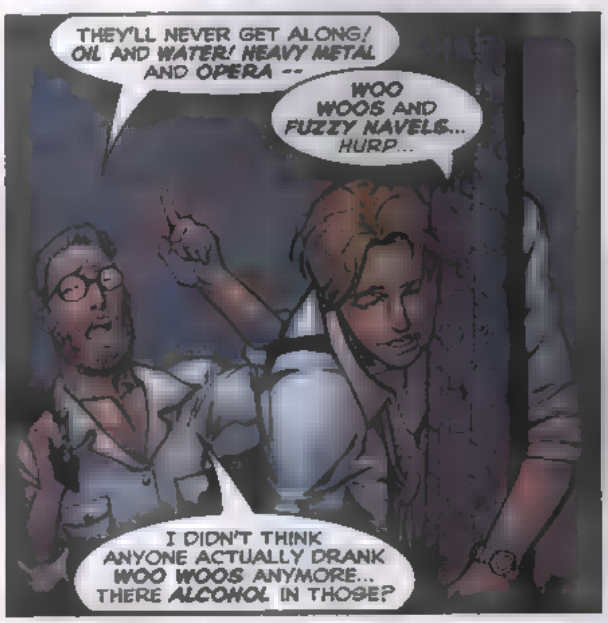
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SOILING MYSELF WITH YOUR TOUCH AGAIN.
THUNK
HEAD CLEARING A LITTLE... BUT COULD BARELY DODGE HER STROKE.
SHE STRIKES WITH NO HESITATION, NO REMORSE... IS MARY WALKER REALLY GONE?
WE TRIED THAT LAST TIME, REMEMBER? THE ROOF? THE RAIN?

JUST NEED TO FOCUS FOR ONE... SHOT...
NO. NOT AGAIN. NOT TODAY.
TODAY IS ABOUT RESTITUTION, REBIRTH... NOT RECONCILIATION.

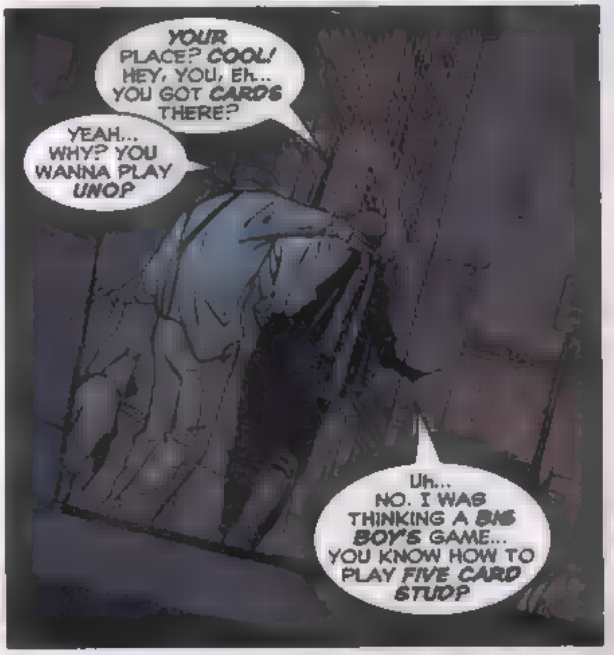
TODAY, I WIPE YOU FROM MY LIFE... YOU AND ALL OF THE [redacted] CAUSED [redacted]
THIS TIME FOR GOOD.
FWAPP
DEADPOOL?


MEANWHILE... THE VILLAGE.
WOW! I CAN'T RE-SHIKI -MEMBER THE LAST TIME I DID THIS...
...I CAN'T REMEMBER MY SHIKI PHONE NUMBER, EITHER...
HOW DO YOU THINK OUR QUOTE UNQUOTE PALS ARE DOING?

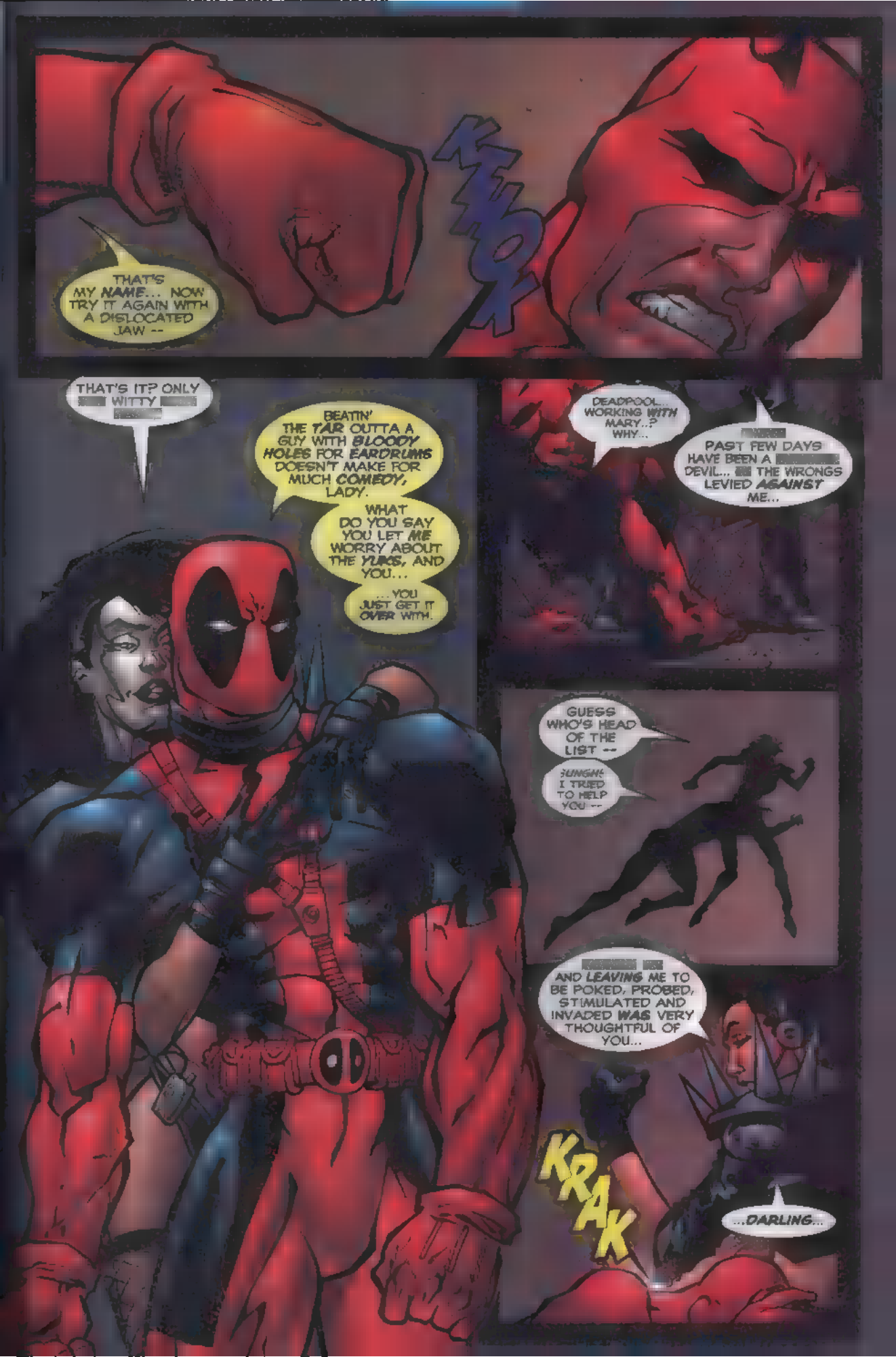
WHY ARE THERE TWO DOGGIES HERE? I ONLY HAVE ONE DOGGIE.
I BET THOSE GUYS'LL GET ALONG SWELL...
"SWELL"? JUST HOW MANY DRINKS DID YOU HAVE?

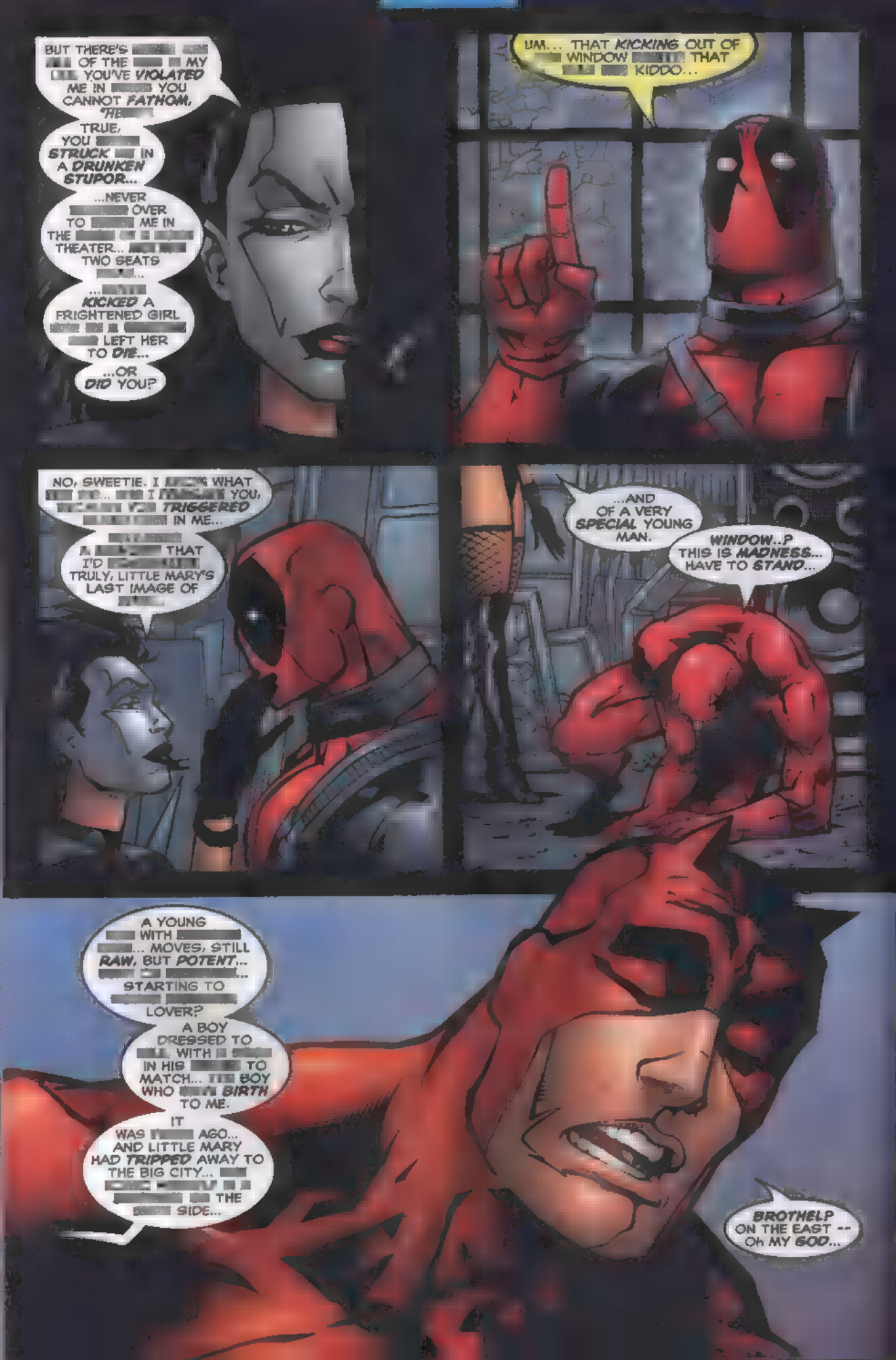

THEY'LL NEVER GET ALONG! OIL AND WATER! HEAVY METAL AND OPERA --
WOO WOOS AND FUZZY NAVELS... HURP...
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE ACTUALLY DRANK WOO WOOS ANYMORE... THERE ALCOHOL IN THOSE?

I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T SHIKI DRINK.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
YOU HUNGRY? I'M HUNGRY... WE'LL CALL FOR MORE 'ZA FROM MY PLACE!


YOUR PLACE? COOL! HEY, YOU, EH... YOU GOT CARDS THERE?
YEAH... WHY? YOU WANNA PLAY UNO?
UH... NO. I WAS THINKING A BIG BOY'S GAME... YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY FIVE CARD STUD?

NO... WILL YOU SHIKI TEACH ME?
WHOA, AVALANCHE!
SURRRE! I'LL TEACH YA FINE...
SO, YOU GOT THE PLAYBOY CHANNEL?
KRSH

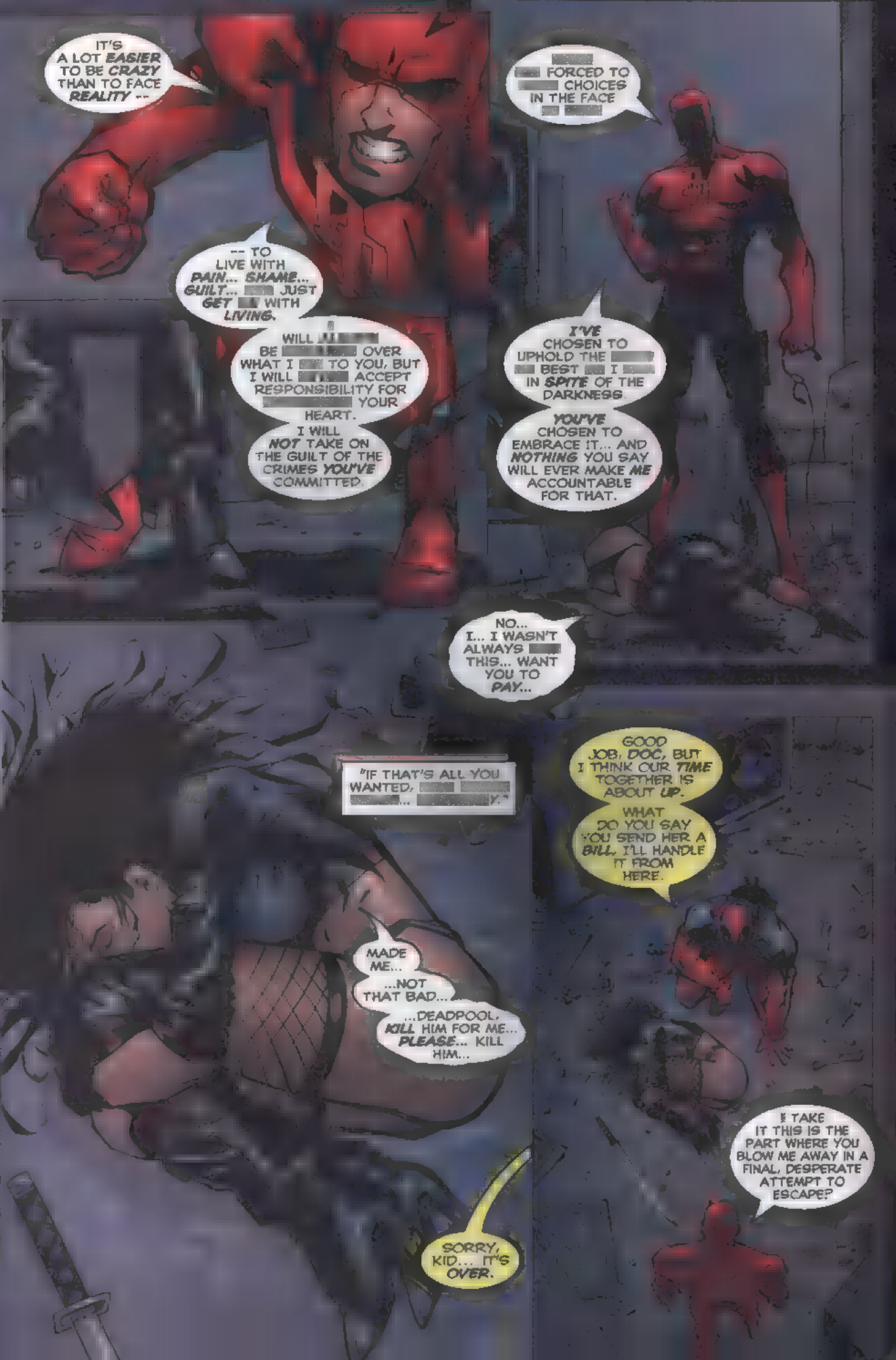

THAT'S MY NAME... NOW TRY IT AGAIN WITH A DISLOCATED JAW --
KRAK
THAT'S IT? ONLY [redacted] WITTY [redacted]
BEATIN' THE TAR OUTTA A GUY WITH BLOODY HOLES FOR EARDRUMS DOESN'T MAKE FOR MUCH COMEDY, LADY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT THE YUKS, AND YOU...
...YOU JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
DEADPOOL... WORKING WITH MARY...? WHY...
[redacted] PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN A [redacted] DEVIL... [redacted] THE WRONGS LEVIED AGAINST ME...
GUESS WHO'S HEAD OF THE LIST --
UNGH! I TRIED TO HELP YOU --
[redacted] AND LEAVING ME TO BE POKED, PROBED, STIMULATED AND INVADED WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU...
KRAK
...DARLING...


BUT THERE'S [illegible] OF THE [illegible] MY [illegible] YOU'VE VIOLATED ME IN [illegible] YOU CANNOT FATHOM, "HE[illegible]
TRUE, YOU [illegible] STRUCK [illegible] IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR...
...NEVER [illegible] OVER TO [illegible] ME IN THE [illegible] THEATER... [illegible] TWO SEATS [illegible]...
...[illegible] KICKED A FRIGHTENED GIRL [illegible] LEFT HER TO DIE...
...OR DID YOU?
UM... THAT KICKING OUT OF [illegible] WINDOW [illegible] THAT [illegible] KIDDO...
NO, SWEETIE. I [illegible] WHAT [illegible] I [illegible] YOU, [illegible] TRIGGERED [illegible] IN ME...
[illegible] THAT I'D [illegible] TRULY, LITTLE MARY'S LAST IMAGE OF [illegible]
...AND OF A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MAN.
WINDOW...? THIS IS MADNESS... HAVE TO STAND...
A YOUNG [illegible] WITH [illegible]... MOVES, STILL RAW, BUT POTENT... [illegible]... STARTING TO [illegible] LOVER?
A BOY DRESSED TO [illegible] WITH [illegible] IN HIS [illegible] TO MATCH... [illegible] BOY WHO [illegible] BIRTH TO ME.
IT WAS [illegible] AGO... AND LITTLE MARY HAD TRIPPED AWAY TO THE BIG CITY... [illegible] [illegible] THE [illegible] SIDE...
BROTHEL? ON THE EAST -- Oh MY GOD...

"MARY HAD FOUND A SHELTER FROM THE STORM... A PUTRESCENT ONE TO BE SURE...
"...BUT SHE GOT TO KEEP TEN PERCENT, AND THE CUSTOMERS WERE...
"...ALMOST HUMANE.
"THEN, ONE NIGHT... HE CAME.
"LIKE THE SCORCHING SUMMER EMBODIED... A YOUNG MANLING IN SEARCH OF A MONSTER...
"...[redacted] WHO HAD HURT SOMEONE HE LOVED... A FATHER... [redacted] RIGHTEOUSNESS [redacted] TANGIBLE.
"HE NEVER EXPECTED THE GIRLS TO ATTACK.
"BITE.
"SCRATCH.
"HE PANICKED.
"I SMELLED IT ON HIS BREATH AS HE EXHALED... LASHED OUT...
"...HARD.
"EVERYTHING THAT WAS WEAK... DIED. EVERYTHING THAT IS [redacted].
"BORN OF HIM..."
"EVEN AS I FELL, I REMEMBER THINKING, 'THIS IS THE LAST TIME. I WILL NEVER BE HURT BY A MAN AGAIN...'

"-- BORN OF YOU, DEVIL."
IT CAN'T BE... I THOUGHT YOU [redacted] DEAD.
ALL THOSE YEARS... THOUGHT I HAD KILLED YOU...
YOU'RE ALIVE.
YES. I AM. ALIVE... AND I REMEMBER.
THERE'S [redacted] BEEN A BOND [redacted] US... ONE SO [redacted] EVEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT --
-- UNTIL [redacted] RELEASED MY MIND, [redacted] I SAW [redacted] IN THAT BOY.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
EVERYTHING HIT [redacted] IT WERE YESTERDAY. IT WAS LIKE COMPARING SNAPSHOTS. BEFORE [redacted] AFTERS.
SO I HAD TO COME. I HAD TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR [redacted] WHEN [redacted] YOU... THAT EVERY MAN I'VE EVER KILLED...
...EVERY LIFE I'VE SHREDDED... THE OCEAN OF BLOOD SPILLED BY MY HAND...
...ALL STARTED WITH YOU.
KNOW THIS, [redacted] YOUR RESPONSIBILITY... AND THEN DIE.
I'VE CARRIED THAT MOMENT WITH ME FOR [redacted]
THE JASMINE YOU [redacted] TO KILL THE [redacted] OF YOUR [redacted] YOUR [redacted] AS I [redacted] CONTACT...
...IT WAS THE BIGGEST [redacted] THAT I'VE [redacted] MADE IN MY LIFE...
...BUT I UTTERLY REFUSE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY [redacted] YOU BECAME.
HOW DARE YOU..?

YOU DROVE THE FINAL SPIKE/
YOU [redacted] THE FATAL SCHISM/
YOU DID THIS TO ME! YOU MADE ME!
NO, I DIDN'T. TYPHOID. WHAT I DID WAS WRONG... IT'S A WEIGHT I'VE CARRIED FOREVER ON MY SOUL...
BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
KA-ZASH
I LIVE BECAUSE OF THE THINGS THAT MEN DID TO ME! WHAT YOU DID, MOST OF ALL/
NO, MARY. YOU [redacted] WHO YOU [redacted] OF THE [redacted] YOU MAKE/
SOMETIMES LIFE IS TRAGEDY AND PAIN AND ACCIDENTS! BUT WAS I THERE WHEN YOU PULLED YOUR FIRST TRIGGER?
WAS I THERE THE FIRST TIME YOU TOOK A LIFE? NO! YOU MADE THAT CHOICE ON YOUR OWN!
FWOP
YOU TOOK MY CHOICES AWAY!
BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO EVERYONE, BUT WE DON'T ALL LASH OUT AT THE WORLD BECAUSE OF IT/
FOR ALL OF YOUR BASHING OF LITTLE MARY WALKER, IT'S TYPHOID WHO'S THE WEAK ONE!
WHEN THINGS GOT TOO TOUGH, SHE RETREATED INTO INSANITY!
NO-- UNGH!
KWOKK


IT'S A LOT *EASIER* TO BE *CRAZY* THAN TO FACE *REALITY* --
[redacted] FORCED TO [redacted] CHOICES IN THE FACE [redacted]
-- TO LIVE WITH *PAIN*... *SHAME*... *GUILT*... [redacted] JUST *GET* [redacted] WITH *LIVING*.
I WILL [redacted] BE [redacted] OVER WHAT I [redacted] TO YOU, BUT I WILL [redacted] ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR [redacted] YOUR HEART.
I WILL *NOT* TAKE ON THE GUILT OF THE CRIMES *YOU'VE* COMMITTED.
I'VE CHOSEN TO UPHOLD THE [redacted] BEST [redacted] I IN *SPITE* OF THE DARKNESS.
YOU'VE CHOSEN TO EMBRACE IT... AND *NOTHING* YOU SAY WILL EVER MAKE *ME* ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.
NO... I... I WASN'T ALWAYS [redacted] THIS... WANT YOU TO *PAY*...
"IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANTED, [redacted]... [redacted]Y."
GOOD JOB, *DOC*, BUT I THINK OUR *TIME* TOGETHER IS ABOUT *UP*.
WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU SEND HER A *BILL*, I'LL HANDLE IT FROM HERE.
MADE ME...
...NOT THAT BAD...
...DEADPOOL, *KILL* HIM FOR ME... *PLEASE*... KILL HIM...
I TAKE IT THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU BLOW ME AWAY IN A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE?
SORRY, KID... IT'S *OVER*.

NO, THAT'D BE CLICHE, AN' I GOT MORE COUTH THAN THAT. BESIDES... I NEVER REALLY WANTED TO OFF YOU ANYWAYS.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, REDMAN, THIS WAS ONE BIG THERAPY SESSION, AND YOU PLAYED YOUR PART JUST FINE --
-- THE WINDOW THING WAS SORTA COOL... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ONE TOUGH LITTLE BRAT --
-- BUT OTHERWISE, THIS WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
YOU KNEW ALL THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
NO. I DIDN'T [redacted] SHE'D GO AFTER ANYONE BUT YOU...
...OKAY, THERE WERE A FEW HITCHES...
WHY? HOW COULD YOU ALLOW THIS?
SOMEONE ONCE POINTED OUT TO ME . THAT I MIGHT HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MARY
NOW, I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S TRUE, BUT IF IT IS --
... THEN I FIGURED THE FIRST THING WOULD BE TO TRY AND HELP HER FACE HER DEMONS... NOT LIKE THOSE PANSIES IN THE PSYCH WARD DO IT --
-- BUT THE WAY FOOLS LIKE US DO... HEAD ON, SWEATING AND BLEEDING. DUKING IT OUT TILL ONLY ONE IS LEFT STANDING.
IN [redacted] CASE, MARY WAS AFTER THE [redacted] DEMON. [redacted] TO [redacted] THAT. YAY [redacted]
I'M [redacted] TO LET YOU WALK [redacted] WITH [redacted], DEADPOOL. [redacted] IS SHE [redacted] --/
GIVE ME A BREAK, HORNBOY. DEAD BODIES ASIDE, YOU GOT AS MUCH OUT OF THIS AS SHE DID.
ABSOLUTION.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE, YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU'RE NOT A KILLER. CASE CLOSED... HERS HAS JUST OPENED.
NOW, YOU MAY NOT HAVE MUCH REASON TO, BUT YOU GOTTA TRUST ME. I'M GONNA DO THE RIGHT THING. FOR REAL.
WE MONSTERS HAVE OUR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.
SO GO... ENJOY YOUR NEWFOUND LIGHTNESS OF BEING WHILE WE SLINK BACK TO THE SHADOWS...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT WOMAN WILL DO TO YOU?
PFAF
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. SHE CHOOSES TO LIVE IN DARKNESS. SHE'LL JUST DRAG YOU DOWN WITH HER.
PROBABLY...
... BUT MAYBE NOT. I'M NOT AS FAR GONE AS YOU MAY THINK, RED.
MAYBE WITH TIME... BOTH OF US CAN WALK INTO THE LIGHT.
PRETTY LOFTY ASPIRATIONS FOR A COUPLE OF FREAKS, HUH?

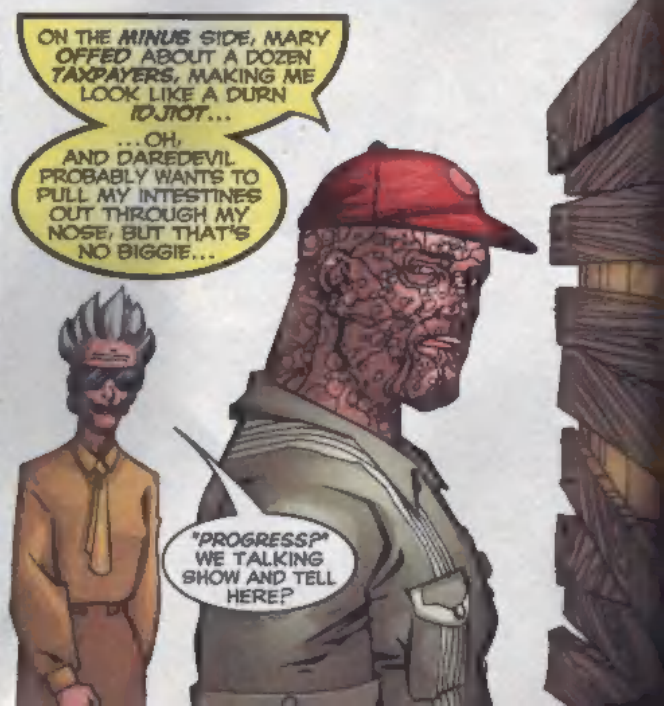
THE POLICE PICK UP THE MESS IN THE CLUB.
CORONERS BAG AND TAG WHAT'S LEFT.
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER.
BUT EVEN THOUGH MARY'S STILL OUT THERE --
HEADED GOD-KNOWS-WHERE WITH A MADMAN AS HER CARETAKER...
THINGS FEEL... LIKE THEY'LL BE OKAY. AS FOR ME...
I'M NOT A MURDERER.
FOR A LITTLE WHILE AT LEAST...
...THAT'S ENOUGH.
THE DEVIL HEADS HOME.
SMILING.
THE NEXT MORNING...
foggy
WHAP >SNORT< WEASEL?
Ohhh MY HEAD... NEVER AGAIN...
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH AFTER THE FIRST SIX PACK. WEAZ... DID WE STREAK SOMEONE?

Oh... HE'S GONE. NOTE.
"DEAR FOGGSTER... HAD A GREAT TIME. THANKS FOR LETTING ME CRASH AT YOUR PAD, I OWE YOU!
foggy

"SPEAKING OF DEBTS, CONSIDER YOUR POKER TAB PAID IN FULL! THANKS AGAIN, WEAZ."
POKER TAB? I DON'T REMEMBER...
Oh... WAIT... I WAS LOSING. BUT WHAT DID I BET? WHAT DID I LOSE?

...
DEUCE?

WELL? HOW'D IT GO?
ON THE PLUS SIDE, GOT TO POUND THE SNOT OUT OF NYC'S FINEST MOB-HITTERS, BLEW UP A CAB, AND MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH MY NEW FRIEND MARY...


ON THE MINUS SIDE, MARY OFFED ABOUT A DOZEN TAXPAYERS, MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A DURN IDJIOT...
...OH, AND DAREDEVIL PROBABLY WANTS TO PULL MY INTESTINES OUT THROUGH MY NOSE, BUT THAT'S NO BIGGIE...
"PROGRESS?" WE TALKING SHOW AND TELL HERE?

NAH... NOTHIN' LIKE THAT. PURELY MENTAL PROGRESS... I THINK.
THIS QUASI-HEROIC STUFF ISN'T AN EXACT SCIENCE, YOU KNOW... BUT IT'S A GOOD THING.
FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE SO.
MORE TO THE POINT THOUGH... WHERE'S MY DADBLAMED PRESENT?!
HERE. I HOPE IT'S YOUR SIZE.
WEASEL HELPED PICK IT OUT.
WE RIPPED THE TAGS OFF IT, SO I CAN'T RETURN IT IF YOU DON'T LOVE IT, THOUGH.
OH, THAT'S OKAY...
...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
YOU WENT TO THE CULTURAL CAPITAL OF THE WORLD... AND YOU BROUGHT ME BACK DEAD FLESH?
IT'S NEW YORK FLANK STEAK, AL/ OFFICIAL MEAT OF THE BIG APPLE!
WADE! I GOT TONS OF BEEF IN THE FREEZER/ THIS SUCKS!
OH, YE OF LITTLE FAITH AND MUCHO WRINKLES... THAT'S JUST THE FIRST PART OF YOUR PRESENT!
HOLD THE STEAK NICE AND CLOSE TO YOUR BODY... THAT'S IT! NOW HEEEEEERE COMES THE SECOND PART...
"...COME AND GET IT!"
COME AND GET WHA--?
WAAADE!
END